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FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

FRANCE.—A somewhat remarkable pamphlet in view of the elections has been published by a M. Boucher, urging the absolute necessity of union among the moderate parties, under pain of the most perilous consequences.

The new Minister of Finance, M. Sadi-Cornot, has made the unpleasant announcement that he considers the estimate of thirty-four millions made by his predecessor of the produce of the new duties on cereals and cattle to be greatly exaggerated, and that it must be reduced by at least ten millions.

A painful scene occurred at the Protestant Free Church, Rue Madame, Paris, on Sunday. Just as the service was terminating one of the congregation, Hermann Keller, aged 34, a native of Zurich, pointed a revolver at his forehead, exclaimed "A bas l'hypocrisie! Vive la vérité!" and fired. Death was almost instantaneous. He had posted a letter, dated that morning, to a friend in Paris, in which he announced that after a few hours' sleep he meant to kill himself at church, and explained his motives. According to this epistle he and his father had taken a leading part at Zurich in 1871 in succouring the remains of General Bourbaki's army. Six years ago he came to Paris and stayed at a boarding-house which had been conducted for fifty years by his relatives. Two months afterwards he fractured his elbow, and, thanks to a quack doctor, called in for the sake of cheapness, he became a cripple. This put an end to his plan for entering the French Army, and he was profoundly discouraged. After a time he taught English and German, but one day some of his pupils styled him in German, "a pig," and a French governess, after a week's engagement, jilted him, ostensibly for difference of religion, but really for his lack of money. A Protestant pastor's daughter did the same, and it was because of the pastor's unworthy conduct to him that he meant to make both father and daughter ridiculous by shooting himself in church. He wished for no cross on his grave, but rather a sword inscribed, "Guerre aux prêtres, aux pasteurs, avec leurs convids, et aux curés." The members of the congregation were horrorstack, and some fainted. Two doctors were called in and found life extinct.

ITALY.—The reception of the King of Italy at Naples on Saturday, was very enthusiastic. At the station he received an address from the Syndic, and a tablet commemorating his visit to Naples during the cholera epidemic was uncovered in the presence of a large assemblage, the urban population being augmented by thousands of persons from the neighbourhood. A procession of fishermen in their Phrygian caps was very picturesque, and was loudly cheered. From the station to the palace, a long distance, the richly-decorated streets were crowded, the balconies and roofs were full of flowers, and pretty papers, with mottoes and verses of welcome, fell thickly into the Royal carriage, which, unguarded, was closely surrounded by the cheering populace. With his Majesty were the Queen, the Duke of Aosta, and the Prince of Naples. In the other carriages were specially noticed Signor Depretis and the other Ministers, and the ex-Khedive. The transit from the station to the palace occupied an hour and a half. Along the whole route hundreds of associations were stationed, with flags and music. In the Piazza Plebiscito thousands awaited their Majesties' arrival. Soon afterwards the King and Queen appeared on the balcony, and were repeatedly welcomed with cheers and waving of handkerchiefs. Brilliant sunshine heightened the gay colours of the numerous flags and streamers. In the evening the piazza was splendidly illuminated. A gigantic wreath of red and white roses with the Royal monogram in the centre was particularly beautiful; while from pillar to pillar of the colonnade festoons and devices and palm trees of coloured lights round the fountain gave the great square a fairy-like appearance. All Naples made holiday, and the large crowd assembled to give King Humbert a welcome which he will never forget was the best proof that the hearts of the people were in the demonstration.

At noon on Sunday the King arrived at Capodimonte, and descended the interminable staircases to the subterranean reservoirs of the new waterworks, which were lighted by electricity with fine effect. He was accompanied by the Duke of Aosta; two of the Ministers, Signor Genala and Signor Pessina; the Archbishop of Naples, and 100 guests. The Archbishop gave a benediction, after which his Majesty visited all the reservoirs, and expressed his admiration, saying that great as had been his expectations, this truly Roman work surpassed them all. After tasting the water and witnessing the filling of one reservoir, he and his suite returned to the city at four o'clock. From the balcony of the Royal palace the Queen gave the signal, and the beautiful fountain opposite from its five hundred spouts sent a sea of spray across its enormous basin, the central stream rising in rapid jets till it far overtopped the palace. A joyous shout from the immense crowd rent the air, while salutes were fired fro mthe men-of-war in the harbour. It was a sight that moved all hearts; and the faces of their Majesties, who heartily congratulated the Syndic, expressed genuine satisfaction. In the evening the fountains in the Piazza Plebiscito and Toledo were illuminated, and the streets, in spite of a constant fine rain, were blocked by the rejoicing crowds.

The King and Queen, with the Prince of Naples, the Duke of Aosta, the Ambassadors of France, Germany, and Spain, and a numerous suite, on Monday afternoon proceeded to the heights of Vomero, where his Majesty laid the foundation-stone of the new quarter, which it is proposed to construct as part of a great scheme for the improvement of the city. This quarter or district will occupy about a thousand acres, and it is situated immediately below the Castle St. Elmo, the site being 800ft. above the level of the sea. The Vomero Quarter has a most salubrious air and magnificent views, and could be made easy of access by rail. The ceremony was witnessed by thousands of people, and concluded amidst enthusiastic cheering. The Royal party left the grounds soon after three o'clock, and were present in the evening at a gala performance at San Carlo, all available places having been previously eagerly secured. Two acts of the opera *Rigoletto* and the ballet *Rhodope* were given.

The Rome correspondent of the *Standard* says:—"The report started by the *Monde* that Dr. Moran had been selected by the Pope for the Archbishopric of Dublin is incorrect. The matter stands as follows:—The result of Mr. Errington's opposition to Dr. Walsh was a decision to send a new triad of names for the approbation of the English Government. This Mr. Errington carried home with him, and his reply, which, in fact, is that of the British Government, is expected at the Propaganda from hour to hour. Dr. Moran's name was the first of the three, and if the English Government, through Mr. Errington, consents, he will doubtless be the Archbishop; but nothing is done yet, nor will be, till the reply of the English Government arrives.

GERMANY.—The German Reichstag was occupied on Saturday with the consideration of a Bill to prohibit Sunday work. Prince Bismarck strongly opposed the Bill, and urged that it would be impossible to prevent workmen who wanted to increase their earnings from working on Sunday. He hoped Germany might some day arrive at the same state of things as England, in which country the wish to rest on Sunday was spontaneous; but at present he could only support the Bill if the workmen desired it. This is considered to be tantamount to its rejection.

RUSSIA.—On Saturday the Czar arrived at St. Petersburg from Gatschina to attend the funeral service of Princess Mary, youngest of the three daughters of the Prince of Montenegro, who are being educated in the Smolna Institute at St. Petersburg. After the service in the church of the Smolna Monastery, the body, which had been embalmed the previous night, was taken to the Moscow Railway Station with great solemnity. The hearse, drawn by eight horses, was followed by the Emperor and all the Grand Dukes, and by many generals, all on horseback. Following them came several mourning carriages, in which were seated the Empress and the Princess Milene, mother of the late Princess, the Grand Duchesses and the Court ladies. Four battalions, four squadrons, and one battery accompanied the funeral procession.

The Council of the Empire has resolved that the teachers in all Elementary schools in Poland are in future to be appointed direct, but the instruction is to be given in the Russian language, except in divinity and the different idioms spoken in the various provinces.

ROUMELIA.—The reports which have been telegraphed of conflicts between the Bulgarians and Greeks in Eastern Roumelia are greatly exaggerated. St. George's Day is a great feast of the Greek race, and is usually accompanied by a certain amount of disorder, which, however, has no political significance whatever. On the present occasion there appears to have been rather more than usual. In reply to a demand of the Grand Vizier for information, Gavril Pacha, the Governor of Eastern Roumelia, telegraphed that Philippopolis has returned to its usual condition, and that in the tumult not a single life was lost or serious injury caused. There is therefore no pretext this time for sending Turkish troops to re-establish or preserve order.

BELGIUM.—Bishop Titcomb on Thursday consecrated the new British Protestant church in Brussels. The ceremony was attended by a large number of the British residents.

HAWAII.—The death took place on the 25th ult., of Emma, Queen Dowager of Hawaii. Queen Emma was the widow of Kamehameha IV., who died in 1863. She was the daughter of an Englishwoman and a native chief, and was adopted by Dr. Rooke, an English physician in the islands. Before her marriage with King Kamehameha she was known as Miss Rooke. When the present King Kalakaua was elected in the year 1872, on the death of Kamehameha V., Queen Emma contested his election, and a civil war was threatened. But opposition to the new King ceased on his recognition by Queen Victoria. Queen Emma arrived in England on a visit in July, 1865, and left in July, 1866.

EGYPT.—The *Times* correspondent at Cairo says that the news of the decision of the Government not only to abandon the expedition to Khartoum, but also to evacuate the Soudan and hand over Souakim to some civilised Power, has had the effect of a bomb bursting over the city. "It is truly impossible to express the feelings of natives and foreigners here since the reception of this news. It is considered as being the first step towards the total evacuation of Egypt. Such a step would inevitably bring on anarchy and disorder, which no native Government is strong enough to prevent. Had the Government six months ago given orders for the formation of a black brigade at Dongola, the evacuation might now be carried out by the appointment of a man like Abd el Kader as Governor; but to-day to form, or pretend to form, a Government without any backbone for defence is an impossibility." The news gave rise to an exhibition of strong feeling among the political officers at Souakim.

The Arabs have ceased for the present to interfere with the Souakim Railway, which is still patrolled at night by the army train.

An incident occurred the other day in the harbour which has done something to relieve the monotony of daily existence at Souakim. A sailing-boat, containing two English sailors, was crossing the bows of a steamer, which did not give it much room. The sailors, thinking their boat would be cut down, jumped into the water. Sir Allen Young, seeing them from the deck of his yacht, promptly jumped into the National Aid Society's launch *Princess*, lying alongside, followed by his skipper and Mr. Kennett Barrington, and put off to the rescue. The skipper and Mr. Barrington jumped overboard and held the men, one of whom, a bad swimmer, had clutched the other. All were safely hauled in. But for Sir Allen Young's promptitude both sailors would probably have been drowned.

Lord Wolseley, accompanied by Generals Graham and Fremantle and several staff officers, went by train from Souakim to Otao on Tuesday, and thence rode to Tambook, where they inspected the Scots Guards and the Royal Engineers stationed there. The Guards numbered 562, the total force on parade being 771. After a minute inspection of the troops, the General complimented them on their fine appearance. Lord Wolseley made no inspection of the camp. On his return to Otao he inspected the mounted infantry and tested the water drunk by the troops; but, as before, he ignored the position. He returned to Souakim, and dined in the evening with General Graham and his staff.

A letter from the Governor of Kassala, dated the 13th of April, and received at Souakim on Sunday, says:—"Having heard of the advance of the British troops we are still holding out, with the hope that we shall be relieved. We have eaten all the donkeys, and are now living on sesame. Although I have orders to cut my way out, I will not leave my people." It is impossible, a correspondent at Cairo says, to express the feeling there at the forlorn hope of this brave garrison, which has held out for over a year. It might have been saved, but is now evidently destined to share the fate of Khartoum, Tokar, and Sinkat. The Governor of Kassala is a Circassian. The inhabitants are estimated at from 25,000 to 30,000.

Curious stories reach Dongola of what the Arabs say of us. "The Inglesi," so one sheikh writes to another, "have, after all, a good plan of fighting. They stand still; they wait for us; and then they fire. Thus we lose a great many. But when one Inglese is killed or wounded, another takes him out of the way on his back, and another man takes his place. Thus in battle you do not see huge piles of dead mixed with wounded among the Inglesi as it is with us; and the ground is not obstructed with the dead. The Inglesi like fighting, and do the fighting themselves; whereas the Mudir of Dongola sends Soudanese to fight, and keeps his own men in rear." The story of the English having a long pole, which they climb up, and from which they "see everything," is again repeated.

The following is an extract from a letter received from an officer in the Soudan:—"The men have nothing to eat but biscuit and tinned meat. Officers the same. No sugar, no salt, coffee, tea, or vegetables. The heat quite fearful. Insects and flies by the million. No rest night or day. A fierce, hot wind blows always. Sickness all round; and all so depressed and weary. It is the most disgraceful campaign. God knows every one of us would do anything for our Queen and country except to be asked to rot here and die by inches, unable to get even news from our dear ones at home. And all for what?"

"The other night," writes a Dongola correspondent, "I saw a number of Dongolese squatting on their haunches round a girl who was singing and dancing to the light of lanterns strung between two trees, near the bazaar. She first danced comparatively slowly to the beating of tom-toms. Either she was endeavouring to keep time to them, or the musicians were trying to regulate their time to her steps. Whichever it was, it was a failure. She now began to wriggle about furiously and twist the lower part of her body into all sorts of what I consider most ungraceful contortions, not to call them attitudes; but this is the admired style of dance in the Soudan. She now suddenly stopped, drew her hand across her throat, and cried "Mahomet Achmet mát!" (dead, or killed). This announcement was received by the admiring multitude with acclamation, not at all like what we should suppose applause, nor did the sound resemble cheering. It was a noise somewhat between the shrill screech of a peacock and the guttural grunt of a hog."

In a letter to the *Daily Telegraph*, the Baroness Burdett-Coutts says that for some time past conferences have been held at her house on the position of the Soudan. First, its development has been studied through combined commercial and philanthropic agencies; secondly, its probable effects on the slave-trade. She says:—"These two objects, the opening out of Soudanese markets to English enterprise and the suppression of the slave-trade, though not absolutely identical, are like parallel lines, always running the same course and passing to a point beyond our ken. Thus all interested in the one feel equal interest in the other. It was suggested that English enterprise in the twofold direction could be carried on successfully through the formation of a company or syndicate founded on the precedent of the East India Company, or on the more recent and perhaps more apposite example of the Borneo Company, which is a product arising out of the late Rajah's (Sir James Brooke) successful enterprise in Sarawak, through which the head-hunting Dyaks and former piratical tribes are now (as we hope the African slave-dealers may hereafter be) converted into honest traders, spreading commerce, peace, and goodwill on earth, instead of barbarism, cruelty, and a standing menace to humanity. The Borneo Company receives very considerable support and countenance from the Government of England, and is also invested with almost supreme power from its suzerain, the Sultan of Borneo. I have reason to think that such a plan, or one analogous to it, would receive ready assistance from influential quarters under the one absolutely indispensable condition—namely, that the railway should exist. A movement for the suppresion of slavery associated itself naturally with the Anti-Slavery Society, whose secretary, Mr. Allen, has always attended our meetings, and I believe that the Anti-Slavery Society has already moved in this matter, and will make endeavours to prevent the plant now at Souakim being sent home. Independently of the strong motive for the completion of the railway in the interests of a common humanity, our home interests would be thereby benefited; for the articles which Manchester and other of our manufacturing towns could furnish find as ready acceptance in the Dark Continent as they do elsewhere, and we may cherish at least that amount of belief in even a slave merchant's human nature that he would as willingly sell cotton and calicoes as men, women, and children—perhaps prefer the former trade, had he the opportunity, as being easier of transit and requiring no provisions." These conferences, the Baroness adds, have received valuable support from those whose philanthropy and practical knowledge of Africa and its resources are indisputable. Lord Shaftesbury, Cardinal Manning, the Bishop of Newcastle, Mr. Forster, Mr. H. M. Stanley, and others equally well known, are all willing to further any scheme having for its object the redemption of the Soudan. The Baroness Buddett-Coutts feels certain that the day is not far distant when we shall cease to read in the daily papers of the miseries of the "scorching Soudan;" but rejoice to hear that a brisk and honest trade is carried on in Khartoum on the spot where Charles George Gordon fell, "his front with wounds unnumbered riven, his back to earth, his face to heaven."

CANADA.—What appears to be a substantial success is reported of General Middleton's force at Batoche. His action on the occasion of his first advance from Clark's Crossing turns out to have been a victory not differing very much from a repulse. At all events, after the engagement the Canadian troops fell back to Fish Creek to await reinforcements and supplies. On the 7th inst. General Middleton again advanced with a force of 500 men. At Gabriel's Crossing he halted for the night, resuming his march the next day, Friday, the 8th, having received reports that the rebels had constructed intrenchments and obstacles on the direct road. He changed the direction of his march, and moved across country for about three miles till he struck the Humboldt and Batoche road, along which he proceeded till he reached a spot ten miles from Batoche. He then encamped, but spent the afternoon in reconnoitring the country up to within five miles of Batoche, capturing two rebel vedettes and several ponies and oxen, a proof that his advance by the Humboldt-Batoche road was unsuspected.

On Saturday, General Middleton moved at an early hour, with the design of attacking the enemy. He placed twenty marksmen on board the steamer Northcote, which he had caused to be made bullet-proof by means of thick planking, with orders to co-operate in the attack and prevent any communication between the two banks of the river. The column moved with great caution, with scouts ahead, through woods and gradually thickening bush. The enemy, however, gave no sign till the Canadians came out of a wood near the river. When the troops emerged from this wood they saw some of the rebels moving about a cluster of houses, with a church in the centre, which constitutes a sort of detached suburb to Batoche itself, which stands on the further or western side of the river. The General threw forward a line of skirmishers, and at 8 a.m. the first shot was fired. Almost immediately afterwards the Gatling and two guns, which constituted the artillery of the Canadian force, opened on the rebels, who fell back, after a mere show of resistance, from the bush between the houses and the column to the church. There they for a moment seemed disposed to make a stand, but soon abandoned the intention and retreated to a line of rifle pits constructed in the bush between the houses and the river. The Canadian troops advanced through the houses and up to the edge of the further bush, some 300yds. from the church, when they were saluted with a heavy fire. On this the Gatling, under command of an American, Captain Howard, who had been sent by the Gatling Company to superintend its working, came into action, the skirmishers lying down, and the two guns being a little to the rear, under a weak escort. Suddenly there was an alarm, and Captain Howard looking round saw that a party of the rebels, creeping up under cover of the bush, had reached a spot close to the guns. The artillerymen and escort being raw troops, and finding themselves greatly outnumbered, did what regular gunners would never have done, and abandoned their pieces. This want of steadiness was, however, fortunate, for Captain Howard, with great presence of mind and courage, wheeled his Gatling promptly round, and his new front being, as we have shown, cleared, sent such a hail of bullets against the rushing rebels that they at once dashed back into the bush, leaving many of their number on the ground. A desultory exchange of shots now ensued between the Canadian skirmishers on the edge of the bush and the rebels in their rifle-pits, both sides being very careful not to expose themselves. General Middleton reported to the Government that he would have charged the rebels if he had commanded regular troops, but that as the operation would have involved much loss he did not care to expose his gallant little band of volunteers to such danger. At 2 p.m. the combat as regarded the infantry came to a close, but the guns kept up a steady fire across the river on Batoche, causing great destruction of houses, the rebels responding with occasional ineffectual rifle shots. In the meantime the steamer *Northcote* had been unable to take any part in the fight. She had arrived opposite Batoche at seven a.m., and was received with a heavy fire, to which the marksmen on board could make no reply, as they could not see the enemy. The smokestack was knocked down and the pilot driven from his post. She then grounded, but, floating again, drifted helplessly down the river, and was thenceforth out of the fight. The loss on Saturday is reported in one telegram to have been one man killed and seven wounded, in another thirteen killed and twenty-three wounded. On Saturday night the Canadians bivouacked in a zareba, and on Sunday seem to have occupied themselves in intrenching the hill on which the church is situated and the neighbouring eminences, the guns continuing to fire on Batoche. By some means or other the General appears to have surrounded the bushy ravine running perpendicularly to the river, in which the enemy were posted, with entrenchments, thus barring every chance of escape save by the river itself. On Monday General Middleton resumed the offensive, having probably received reinforcements, and by a gallant bayonet charge drove the enemy out of the ravine and across the plain. The rebels, it is stated, are now surrounded and in process of being starved out, and that two steamers are descending the river to cut off all communication between the two banks of the river. General Middleton's loss on Monday was 5 killed and 15 wounded. Colonel Otter is entrenched at Battleford, and Colonel Strange when last heard of was at Edmonton. Reinforcements are being sent forward with all speed, and three fresh corps have been called out. The half-breeds near Calgary and Qu'Appelle have concluded an arrangement with the Government, but the Indians are still in an excited state, and a prolonged campaign is probably before General Middleton.

It is reported in Vienna that Mr. H. M. Stanley will be appointed the first Governor of the new Congo State. Other members of the Government have been appointed, and its seat is at present to be Brussels.

A curious ceremony was performed the other day at Travancore. The Maharajah was weighed against a mass of pure gold, which was then dispensed in charity. This custom, called "Tulabhara," is one of great antiquity, and is said to be traceable in Travancore to the fourth century. It is not unknown in other parts of India; though of course gold is only used in the case of wealthy persons, the humbler sort

being content to weigh themselves against spices or grain. On the present occasion the Maharajah weighed a little over nine stone. The Brahmins, it is said, wished to defer the ceremony, in the hope that the Maharajah might more nearly approach the weight of his father, who did not undergo the rite until forty-seven years old, when he weighed 142 stone.

The Pacific Commission has finally concluded its labours, and the recommendations agreed to by the English and German representatives are, it is believed, likely to meet with general approval. The *Standard* believes the following are the leading points of settlement. The subjects of one Power are to have equal rights, in all respects, in the territories of the other Power. Whatever advantages have arisen to German subjects as a consequence of the annexation of New Ireland and other places recently placed under the German flag will be shared by all English traders. Germans, on the other hand, will enjoy the advantages of British subjects in New Guinea. There are to be no differential duties, nor is one Power to impede the ships of the other. Arms, ammunition, and alcohol are not to be sold by either Power. The Solomon Islands, the New Hebrides, Friendly Islands, and Navigators are to remain "open" as common fields of action, and their independence is not to be interfered with. The inclusion of the New Hebrides in this list should be significant to the French Government. The special interest of British trade is recognised in the Ellice, Gilbert, and other groups, and the preponderance of German interests in the Caroline and Marshall Islands is admitted. But the questions relating to Samoa are unsettled. It will be doubtless left to diplomacy to find a *modus vivendi* between Germany, the United States, and England. It is hardly probable that the claims of New Zealand in this respect will be recognised. The Fiji Land Commission Report has resulted in the granting of claims for compensation to three German subjects to the extent of ten thousand pounds. Of this sum nine thousand goes to one claimant, Herr Sahl. The total amount asked for was over thirty thousand pounds, besides many acres of land. But the Commissioners most rigorously cut down these demands.

ENGLAND AND RUSSIA.

The *Standard* understands that, although no formal reply has, as yet, been received from St. Petersburg, Her Majesty's Government have been informed that the Draft Agreement entered into between Earl Granville and the Earl of Kimberley, on the one side, and M. De Staal and M. Lessar, on the other, for the delimitation of the Afghan frontier, has not proved acceptable to the Government of the Czar. *Pourparlers* are going on between the two Governments, with the view of ascertaining what modifications of the Agreement are possible, but we believe that the Russian Government definitely declines to sanction the proposals now submitted for its approval. Unless further concessions are made by England, the negotiations are likely to be of a protracted nature.

At Simla it is understood that the new frontier of Afghanistan will start from the north of Zulfikar, on the Heri Rud, and trend in an easterly direction to Chaman-i-baid, on the Kushk. Descending that river to Gauz-i-Khan, it will proceed from the latter place in a north-easterly direction to the south of Penjdeh, along the margin of cultivation to Khoja Saleh, on the Oxus. The Russo-Persian Boundary Commission is still occupied in placing boundary marks along the river Attrek. The Commission is now halfway between the Caspian Sea and Chat.

The St. Petersburg *Official Messenger* published on Tuesday a long report from General Komaroff, giving detailed accounts of the recent proceedings on the Afghan frontier. The general reiterates his assertion of the aggressive attitude taken up by the Afghans, and enumerates a series of successive provocations which he declares the Afghans offered to the Russians before the battle on the Kushk. He also repeats the story told in his former long despatches, and says that on the 17th of March the left bank of the river was occupied by the Russian forces; the Afghans had only sentinels. It is not true that a detachment of Afghans was cut off. On the 18th of March the Afghans opened fire first; for the general had himself forbidden Colonel Alikhanoff to make an attack or even to reply to a fusillade unless he received special orders to do so. General Komaroff states that he received a letter from Captain Yate, requesting him to afford protection to the English, but on Colonel Zakrejevski subsequently meeting Captain Yate behind Penjdeh the English officer withdrew his request, and declined to receive Russian protection for Englishmen. General Komaroff states that he has refused the request of the residents of Penjdeh and of the Turkomans and Erzariens for incorporation in the Russian empire.

The resignation of Lieutenant-Colonel Mahomed Afzul Khan, C.S.I., and the appointment of Mirza Attaullah Khan Sirdar Bahadur and Russaldar Major of the 10th Bengal Cavalry, to represent British interests at the Cabul Court, is the *Globe* says, a most important event in the present political situation. Colonel Afzul Khan is well known both in England and in India as a most loyal servant of the British Government. He came to England with his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, and by his simplicity of manner and his loyal character, gained numerous friends in this country. A member of one of the most noble families in Cabul, he is much respected among his own countrymen, and his distinguished military services during the Indian mutiny have secured for him a high reputation as a brave soldier. Sirdar Afzul Khan's political views on Central Asian politics are well known. He was opposed to the abandonment of Candahar, and while favourable to the interests of the ex-Ameer, Yakoob Khan, he loyally maintained that if Ameer Abdul Rahman was to be kept true to British interests it must be by thoroughgoing support from the Indian Government. His resignation at the present juncture of affairs shows that he is far from satisfied with the policy of the Liberal Administration. His successor is a native officer of little or no importance.

The Vienna correspondent of the *Daily Telegraph* says he is indebted for the following important information to a naval officer who has just returned from a cruise in the Chinese seas. The constant reinforcement of the Russian East-Asian squadron, and the appearance of several ships belonging to it in the immediate neighbourhood of the island of Quelpart, where they were observed to take soundings, aroused the suspicions of the Chinese and Japanese authorities. They have now ascertained that the Russians contemplate the occupation of Quelpart. The island in question is a strategic position of first-class importance between China, Japan, and the Corea. It commands the seaway to the commercial centres of Nagasaki, Simonoseki, Pusan, Intchou, Tchifu, Tientsin, and Riutchang. It is only 150 geographical miles from Shanghai. It would make an excellent station for the fleet of a foreign Power. The Corean Government are not in a position to defend it. If Quelpart were once occupied by the Russians the twin islands of Tchusima, at present the property of Japan, would inevitably share a similar fate. In 1859 an attempt made by Russian merchantmen to colonise the Tchusima Islands was frustrated by England. The common danger that would thus confront China and Japan from the projected Russian occupation of Quelpart has brought about a *rapprochement* between those two Powers, in view of providing for the safety of the Corean island. China, in particular, is evidently preparing for war. Japan is not idle either. Orders have been issued for the equipment of forty ships and twenty-three torpedo boats. Military manœuvres on a vast scale are now taking place, under the inspection of the Mikado, at Fukuoka.

An officer who went out with the Afghan Boundary Commission has written from Meshed on the 20th of March last as follows:—"I write to you from what is about the most God-forsaken part of the world, I suppose. I came out here, as perhaps you may know, with this so-called Afghan Boundary Commission. It seems, however, that everything relating to Afghanistan that we touch is doomed to fail, and this last effort more so than any other. The Government at home have in every instance ignored the recommendations of Sir Peter Lumsden, who told them in October last that every hour's delay was of consequence, and has repeatedly been at them since. Once he sent in his resignation, as he told them that all his advice was neglected, and that he had no confidence in receiving any support from them. That roused their slumbering energies a little, but now they have relapsed, and are actually 'begging' Russia to send out their commissioner and 'begin work,' as they want to say to Parliament that all is going well. There is no work to be done, as Sir Peter has gone over all the ground and collected evidence which disproves any claim the Russians may have to the line they propose. Of course under these circumstances the Russians are not such fools as to come out and argue the matter dispassionately, as they know that everything is against them. They much prefer to bluster and make a pretence of going to war, which would be ruination to them. That idiotic Government at home expect Sir Peter to hold Herat with 450 Indian troops. That place being undefended, and only a few rusty old cannon of different sorts there and 2,000 Cabuli troops, who hate us and would cut all our throats for the fun of the thing, especially if they found that the Government in England is playing fast and loose with them; and as for the Aimaks (the people of the country), they hate the Cabulis and us, and are suspected of having been got at by Russia. Had the Government done as they were advised in November last and put their foot down, the Turcomans would have cleared the Russians out of Central Asia, as there were not 3,500 of the latter at Merv, Askabad, &c., and in the winter they could not get reinforced. They played the waiting game with Her Majesty's Government, and now have 10,000 men in the country. What is going to be the upshot of the whole affair God knows, but now everything looks very black, and it is entirely due to the vacillation of the Government, just as in the case of poor Gordon. Here it is simply ghastly. I am here with one other fellow, about 150 miles from the camp, and there is nothing in the world to do. The whole country round is a desert, and three-quarters of the town is within the sanctuary of the tomb of the Imaum Riza, which is one of the holiest places for the Persians. So if a non-Mohammedan puts his foot in the place they are down upon him immediately. One's sole exercise is walking up and down the yard of the house, about twenty yards, and that after three weeks one begins to get sick of, especially as there is no hope to keep one going, and one does not know how long it may last."

Mr. A. Condie Stephen, C.M.G., Second Secretary of the British Legation, Teheran, who was attached to Sir Peter Lumsden's staff for the delimitation of the Russo-Afghan frontier, arrived in London on Tuesday afternoon from Afghanistan. How he accomplished the journey will be gathered from the following account in his own words:—"I started from Meshed at almost an hour's notice, with orders to travel with all speed to England. In pursuance of these instructions I left Meshed on April 23 for Sharood, being conveyed by what is called Persian post—that is, relays of horses at given distances. The whole distance was about 300 miles, along moderate roads, and I reached Sharood on April 27, after four days' hard riding, in which I covered seventy-five miles a day from early morning to late at night. The horses, which were all hired for the journey, were of the Turkoman breed and extremely good. From Sharood I started for Astrabad, a distance of 140 miles, still on horseback, the horses being hired along the road. This journey was accomplished in two days, at the rate of seventy miles a day. At Astrabad, after having been six days in the saddle, there was a welcome change, as I caught the steamer and crossed the Caspian from Chikislar to Beku, where I was fortunate in catching the train which runs to Tiflis an hour after my arrival. I was most lucky, and after twenty-seven hours' continuous railway travelling I reached Tiflis. I have to thank the Russian officials for further speeding my journey, as they assisted me in every way possible, and enabled me to drive across the Caucasus mountains to Vladi-Kaf-Kaz. The road, which is in extremely good repair, is 130 miles long, and I covered it in twelve stages, some of greater length than the others, according to the nature of the country. I arrived at Vladi-Kaf-Kaz sixteen hours after leaving Tiflis, having passed through a snow-clad mountainous country. The little horses that I had were splendid animals of the Karabagh breed, able to undergo all kinds of hardships, but the road was well kept, and the post service generally was admirably conducted. I continued my stages by train to Rostof, Kharkoff, and Dunaberg, where luckily I caught the train from St. Petersburg to Berlin. I arrived at the latter place yesterday morning after ceaseless journeying, and came on without delay to London. All along my route in Persia and Russia—particularly the latter—I was treated with the greatest courtesy and kindness by both officials and inhabitants. At Tiflis the acting governor did everything that lay within his power to accelerate my passage over the Caucasus, and his assistance was most acceptable. He was good enough to order by telegraph from Tiflis all the stagekeepers along the route to have horses ready for me when I should arrive, and thus when I reached the end of one stage fresh horses were ready to cover the next stage. At every town on my route the Russian authorities lent me assistance."

IRELAND.

Mr. Richard Martin, D.L., chairman of the Citizens' Committee appointed to arrange for the reception of the Prince of Wales in Dublin, has received the following communication from Mr. Gladstone:—"I have received the gracious permission of Her Majesty to propose to you that you should receive the honour of a baronetcy, and I trust it will be agreeable to you to accept this proposal, which I tender to you on account not only of your well-known position in Ireland, but in particular with reference to the great services which you have rendered on the recent and important occasion of the visit of the Prince and Princess." A similar honour has been conferred on Mr. Cecil Guinness, of Castleknock, county Dublin, and the honour of a knighthood on Dr. Wycherley, high sheriff of Cork.

On Monday a deputation proceeded to Four Mile Water from Clonmel for the purpose of endeavouring to establish a branch of the Irish National League in the parishes of Newcastle and Four Mile Water. The deputation was roughly assailed, and a regular faction fight ensued. Father Hearne, the parish priest, came upon the scene, and called upon all the parties to disperse. His command not being complied with, he used his horsewhip vigorously, and a free fight followed.

Dr. Charles Tanner, who with Mr. J. O'Connor, M.P., headed a mob which hissed the Prince of Wales at Cork, has been expelled from the Royal Cork Yacht Club on the ground that his conduct had rendered him unfit to continue to be a member of a club holding a Royal warrant. The Prince of Wales became an honorary member of the club at the time of his recent visit to that city.

A telegram from Rome, published in the Paris *Monde*, which is said to be an authority on such matters, states that the Pope has selected for the Archbishopric of Dublin Mgr. Moran, Archbishop of Sydney since 1872, who has accordingly been telegraphed for.

Judgment was on Monday delivered by the Court of Appeal in Dublin, consisting of the Master of the Rolls and Lords Justices Barry and Fitzgibbon, in the appeal motion of "Cornwall *v.* O'Brien," in June last. Mr. Gustavus C. Cornwall, the Secretary to the General Post Office in Ireland, brought an action against Mr. Wm. O'Brien, M.P., claiming £10,000 damages, for articles which appeared in *United Ireland*. The case was tried before Mr. Justice O'Brien and a special jury, and resulted in a verdict for the defendant. The plaintiff applied to the Common Pleas Division for a new trial, which was refused by the Chief Justice and Mr. Justice Murphy, the other member of the Court, Mr. Justice Harrison, dissenting from this order. The plaintiff appealed, and the appeal, which was heard in February last before the late Lord Chancellor, the Master of the Rolls, and the Lords Justices of Appeal, now stood for judgment. The Master of the Rolls and Lord Justice Barry held that the verdict and judgment should be set aside so far as the finding of the jury involved a finding of felony, but that the verdict should stand upon the first count imputing impropriety, and Lord Justice Fitzgibbon differed from the other members of the Court, but only as to the scope of their judgment. He was of opinion that the whole verdict should be set aside, upon the ground that the trial was entirely unsatisfactory, and that the verdict of a jury who could find felony upon the evidence before them should not be allowed to stand. It was directed that each party should bear his own costs of the first trial, and that the costs of the argument in the Court below, and of the appeal, should abide the result of the subsequent trial. In the new trial the defendant is to be at liberty to use the judge's report of the evidence of such witnesses as the defendant satisfied the Court he could not procure the production of at the trial, as some of the witnesses have left the country.

The publicans and distillers held a meeting in Dublin last week, at which the chair was taken by Mr. John Jameson, M.P. The spirit trade was spoken of as one of the few prosperous trades of the country, and the following resolution was passed:—

That this meeting protests most strongly against the increase of the duty on spirits as adding materially to the heavy burden of taxation imposed on this country and affecting injuriously a branch of Irish manufacturing industry as well as seriously embarrassing the spirit trade, wholesale and retail, through which the Government already receives an enormous annual revenue.

At Ballinasloe workhouse infirmary the dying depositions of a man named Lynch, a bailiff, have been taken. It appears that he with another bailiff had been placed in charge of certain property which had been seized for rent, and that late on Tuesday night the evicted farmer visited the bailiffs and made both drunk with whisky. Lynch was afterwards deliberately placed upon the fire and held down till he was frightfully and fatally burned. He was found in the morning and taken to the infirmary. The farmer has been arrested.

Painted windows as a memorial of departed worth and gallantry have an interest in the eyes of all. Mr. W. G. Taylor has at all times pleasure in shewing his works in progress, both for church and hall, the introduction of likenesses in windows being a special study. Designs and estimates sent. Medal awarded to works in Paris Exhibition.—The "Art" Works, 4, Berners-street, London, W.

Imperial Parliament.

HOUSE OF LORDS.—Monday.

Earl Granville, replying to the Marquis of Salisbury, stated that, no difficulty being now anticipated in settling the point of honour involved in the Pul-i-Khisti affair, the Government had thought it right that Lord Kimberley and himself should meet M. de Staal and M. Lessar and go over the question of the delimitation of the Afghan frontier. They had arrived at an agreement which was perfectly satisfactory alike to the Government, to Lord Dufferin, and to the Council of India. That agreement, the noble Lord added, amid some cheers, had been transmitted to the Russian Government by the Russian representatives.

The Duke of Argyll rose to call the attention of their Lordships to the circular despatch addressed by Prince Gortchakoff to Russian representatives abroad, dated the 21st of November, 1864. In face of this document, he maintained that Russia cannot be justly charged with the perfidy and bad faith laid at her door by Lord R. Churchill, and even men like Sir H. Rawlinson. Intended, as he believed, to be a secret document, but becoming public by accident at the time Russia resumed her great march southwards, it laid down the doctrine that Russia in Central Asia is in the same position as all civilised States in contact with savage and nomad tribes with no fixed social organisation. In all such cases the civilised State was forced to exercise a certain ascendency, and it was left to the Russian Chancellerie to say what States were or were not sufficiently organised. The noble Duke proceeded to show how, in his view, these doctrines applied even to the more recent advances of Russia, and was contending that, after all, the annexations of Russia, in point either of richness of territory or extent of population, were as nothing compared to our own, when,

Suddenly the House was startled by a series of screams proceeding from the quarter of the Chamber occupied by the Bishops. The Duke of Argyll abruptly stopped, and, as all eyes were directed to the benches whence the alarming sounds came, Lord Dormer was observed to sink backwards. The chamber was immediately a scene of confusion, while noble Lords hastened forward with assistance and medical aid was sent for. Dr. Lyons, M.P., arrived from the House of Commons, followed by Dr. Bond, from Westminster Hospital, and Dr. Farquharson, the member for West Aberdeenshire. Policemen entered the House with a stretcher, and a bench was removed in order that the noble Lord might be removed with greater freedom. In a few minutes, however, Lord Dormer happily recovered consciousness, and was able, with assistance, to walk out of the chamber.

The business of the House was not resumed, and their lordships, on the motion of Earl Granville, adjourned at a quarter to six o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—Monday.

At question-time Mr. Gladstone, answering questions as to the course of business, intimated that no contested stage of the Budget Bill would be taken before Whitsuntide, and by the end of the week he anticipated that papers relating to the Afghan frontier would be in the hands of the House. In answer to Mr. Lewis, Mr. Gladstone said he would make a statement as to the course of business on Friday, which would include the Crimes Act; and in answer to Sir E. Reed he declined to fix a day for a discussion of the state of the Navy.

Before the Orders of the Day were called on, Lord Hartington made the promised statement of the latest Soudan policy. In the first place, he pointed out that the instructions which were sent out in the month of March did not contemplate the entire abandonment of the intention to go to Khartoum, but merely to stop all preparations for a forward movement. These instructions had been the subject of communication with Lord Wolseley, and the Government had three alternatives before them. First, the troops might have remained in their present positions, but though there were now some 9,000 troops between Merawi and Dongola, that number could not be diminished if the communictions were to be kept up. Secondly, the troops might have been withdrawn from the most advanced positions and concentrated lower down the river; or, thirdly, they might have retired to the line of Assouan and Wady Halfa, which might be retained as the frontier-line. It was this latter course which the Government had adopted in substance. At this there was much cheering from below the gangway on the Liberal side, and the Marquis went on to caution his audience that this withdrawal, for military and political reasons, could not be carried out immediately. The river was now at its lowest, and would not begin to rise for three weeks, and there was a considerable amount of stores to be removed, and arrangements would have to be made to remove the native troops and other natives. Some time must elapse before the troops could leave Dongola, and in the meantime Sir E. Baring would be instructed to consult the Egyptian Government as to the possibility of establishing a settled government, and how far the railway could be carried on for commercial purposes. If the frontier-line was established at Assouan, Lord Wolseley was of opinion that it would be necessary to keep a strong brigade of all arms of at least 2,500 to guard it and the outposts, and to maintain a certain number of steamboats on the river. As to Souakim, as Lord Wolseley had only been a week on the spot, it had not been possible to come to any precise decision at present, but it would not be given up until arrangements had been made for its occupation by some civilised Power. The advance to Khartoum having been abandoned, it became no longer necessary that the railway should be pressed forward as a military measure; but they would consider and inquire whether it could be continued as a civilising influence, which would also check the slave trade. But before coming to any decision some further time would be required. Many questions were put as to the details of the measures and Lord Wolseley's opinion, and Lord Hartington promised that papers should be laid on the table. Asked whether Souakim was to be handed over to any foreign Power, Mr. Gladstone said that there were no negotiations which could be communicated. In answer to a question from Sir S. Northcote, Mr. Gladstone repeated the statement made by Lord Granville in the other House as

to the negotiations with Russia. An arrangement as to the frontier has been arrived at which is satisfactory to the British Government as well as to Lord Dufferin and his Council, and when the details have been worked out they will be embodied in a convention; and he added that the Ameer had been sufficiently consulted to give assurance that he will act in harmony with us. Mr. GLADSTONE, in moving the second reading of the Consolidated Fund Bill, pointed out, in reference to Lord G. Hamilton's amendment, that it was contrary to the practice of Parliament to raise objections to policy when it was asked to pass a vote of credit, and maintained that there was no real question at issue. The House, he said, was in possession of all the information which the Government had to give with regard to the Soudan, and as to the Afghan frontier difficulty he hoped that the papers would be in the hands of members before the end of the week. Lord G. HAMILTON moved his amendment, the object of which was to obtain more information with respect to the policy of the Government in relation to the Afghan frontier difficulty and the Soudan expedition. He failed to appreciate the objections raised by Mr. Gladstone, and argued that it would be equally unwise from his point of view to raise questions of policy in Committee on a vote of credit. The information given as regards the Afghan difficulty, he contended, was altogether too meagre, and his motion was made, he said, in the hope of extracting from the Government some adequate information as to how they proposed to spend the money they asked for. In dealing with the policy of the Government with respect to their negotiations with Russia, he charged them with being willing to hand over to Russia territory which had been admitted by English officers to belong to our ally, the Ameer of Afghanistan, and argued that their negotiations could not but tend to make the ultimate solution of the difficulty more remote. The existing agreement with Russia, he considered, meant a sham arbitration, and, having strongly deprecated the recall of Sir P. Lumsden, he argued that the only way to successfully deal with Russia was to back up our intentions with a firm policy. Having severely criticised the policy of the Government in the Soudan, which he described as extravagant and murderous, he charged the Prime Minister with adopting a policy in view of an impending general election, and totally regardless of the security and honour of the Empire. Mr. CHAMBERLAIN, who twitted the Opposition with asking for information of a Government they declined to trust, asked why they did not refuse the vote. He justified the course pursued by the Government in respect to the proposed arbitration, and severely criticised the conduct of those who described it as a sham when they had no information as to its terms. Referring to the recall of Sir P. Lumsden, he pointed out that his mission had to a great extent been accomplished. The country which Sir P. Lumsden's Commission had been sent to explore was entirely unknown, he said, to any one, and now that adequate information had been obtained, the Government were in a better position to deal with the matter themselves in London than they could through agents on the spot. As regards the policy of the Government in relation to the Soudan, he pointed out that the Government had declared their policy at the time when Khartoum fell. Since then the magnitude of the task of going to Khartoum had increased, the Mahdi was not so formidable as was expected, the difficulties of withdrawing the army from the Soudan were not now so great as they were, and, as the circumstances of the case had changed, he admitted that the policy of the Government had changed. Baron H. DE WORMS, in supporting the amendment, reviewed at length the advances of Russia during Mr. Gladstone's tenure of office, and showed how the Government had all along closed their eyes to them. He ridiculed the suggestion that the last advance was for the purpose of getting possession of a few hundred miles of sandy territory. It was to place herself within measurable distance of India, and he insisted that the Government, by their peace-at-any-price policy, had infinitely increased the difficulty of defending India. Mr. BUXTON spoke strongly in favour of voting money for the delimitation of the Afghan frontier, and congratulated the Government on their determination to retire from the Soudan. Mr. FINCH HATTON having spoken in support of the amendment, Mr. A. ARNOLD expressed an opinion that the Russian people did not desire war, and, as one who had always advocated a policy of non-intervention in Egypt, congratulated the Government on their decision to retire from the Soudan. Sir H. WOLFF complained of the reticence of the Government in all questions of foreign policy, and, having protested against the Russian question being left to Lord Granville and Sir E. Thornton, who, he sarcastically remarked, were the *dramatis personæ* of the Alabama arbitration, entered upon a long review of the general policy of the Government in Europe, and maintained that, owing to the insulting diplomacy of Lord Granville, he had offended all our old allies. Mr. J. MORLEY expressed satisfaction that the Government had adopted in relation to the Soudan a policy which the Radical party advocated three months ago. He regretted that they had not decided to abandon Souakim. He doubted very much whether the retention of Souakim would be of service in checking the slave trade, and by acquiescing in the presence of the Italians at Massowah one of the original reasons for taking possession of it had disappeared. He approved the course taken in regard to Afghanistan, because he did not see how a war with Russia at the present moment would have advanced the settlement of the frontier question. Mr. CHAPLIN again repudiated with indignation the imputation that the Conservative party desired war, although he believed that a just and honourable war was preferable to a sham peace. The latest statement of Lord Hartington, he showed by numerous quotations, was diametrically opposed to the Prime Minister's declarations at the commencement of the session. He traced also the frequent vacillations of the Government in regard to the Soudan; and, as to the Afghan frontier, he charged them with abandoning General Lumsden as they had abandoned Gordon, and with humiliating the country by a sham arbitration. Finally, he asked what guarantees the Government had taken that the peace would be kept by Russia, and pressed for some information as to the view which they took of Herat. After some remarks from Mr. LAING in condemnation of the forward policy, Lord R. CHURCHILL, in an animated speech, contended that if the amendment were carried it would insure peace with Russia, whereas a continuance of the policy of the Government would inevitably result, sooner or later, in war. Glancing briefly at the speech of Mr. Chamberlain, in which he failed to see any argument, he justified the terms of the amendment, and maintained that it simply went to show that the Conservative party declined to vote money until they were made acquainted in detail with every step which had already been taken in relation to the matter for which it was required. Justifying the unusual number of votes of censure which had been moved against the Government during the present Parliament, he pointed out that in each instance the majority in favour of the Government had materially decreased, and drew a mournful picture of the present position of the country, which he ascribed entirely to the vacillating policy of the Government. Lord HARTINGTON dilated on the inconsistencies of the Opposition, and, examining the various votes of censure which they had moved, insisted that the House was entitled to some further information as to what the object of this motion was and what the Opposition policy was. In reply to criticism on the military position in the Soudan, he defended General Graham's operations as perfectly legitimate, and referring at length to the change of policy in the Soudan, he dwelt on the circumstances which had induced it—the partial collapse of the Mahdi, the difficulties which Lord Wolseley had experienced in making any forward movement, and the difficulty of seeing how any settled Government could be established in these regions. As to the Afghan question, he denied that Sir P. Lumsden had been recalled in deference to Russian misrepresentations, and pointed out that until the papers were produced it was impossible for the Opposition adequately to criticise the conduct of the Government, and their only object, therefore, must be to damage the Government at a time when it was desirable to present an united front. Sir S. NORTHCOTE asserted that the object of the amendment was clear on the face of it—that before granting extraordinary supplies the House should have further information as to the present policy of the Government. Considering how often the Government had changed its policy, this was not an unreasonable demand. Even after the declarations of the Government nobody could feel the least confidence as to what would happen next, or how soon another change of policy would be sprung upon us. The Opposition, therefore, had a right to insist upon further information. It was absurd to pretend that the Opposition desired war with Russia. What they desired was that our relations should be placed on such a footing as to secure peace, whereas the policy of the Government left us within a measurable distance of hostilities with Russia. To secure peace a mere delimitation of the frontier was not sufficient. We must use every means of strengthening our position and improving our communications in India; we must have clear arrangements with the Ameer, and we must have engagements with Russia which would lay down a line to pass which would constitute a *casus belli*. He objected altogether to the manner in which the Government managed its foreign affairs, attributing undue importance to small points, and urged that the motion would be pressed to a division, as the information at present forthcoming was inadequate and entirely missed the points. Mr. GLADSTONE pointed out that Sir S. Northcote had repudiated the principal grounds upon which the amendment had been moved—namely, that no supplies should be voted while the present Government were in office. He reiterated his opinion that it was contrary to the practice of Parliament to refuse supplies in this way. He protested against a discussion and a decision which, in the absence of necessary information, could only be founded upon speculation. He deprecated the language which had been employed by the Opposition, throwing doubt on their trustworthiness, and reproached them with changing their attitude towards the Government the moment there was a chance of a peaceful settlement.

The division was taken shortly after two o'clock, and Lord G. Hamilton's amendment was negatived by 290 to 260.

A considerable time was subsequently spent in securing the third reading of the Redistribution Bill, and the House was counted out at twenty minutes past three o'clock.

HOUSE OF LORDS.—TUESDAY.

In the House of Lords the Bill to legalise marriage with a deceased wife's sister was read a first time, and the second reading was fixed for the 11th of June. Lord SALISBURY made a personal explanation with reference to a speech which he had recently delivered at Hackney, in which it had been alleged by Mr. Gladstone in the House of Commons and by Mr. Trevelyan that he had spoken of the conduct of Russia as that of a swindler and a bankrupt. He emphatically disclaimed having made any such statement. He had expressly stated that he did not charge the Russian Government with dishonesty. Lord GRANVILLE was glad to hear Lord Salisbury's disclaimer; but, having regard to the speech of Lord Randolph Churchill, and the manner in which Lord Salisbury referred to it, he considered it was almost impossible for his colleagues or the public at large not to take his Lordship's remarks as something like a direct insult to a Great Power with whom, he was glad to say, this country still had friendly relations.

Lord GRANVILLE brought up a message from the Queen relating to the marriage of Princess Beatrice with Prince Henry of Battenberg, which was ordered to be taken into consideration on Friday. The Submarine Telegraph Cables Bill was read a second time, and the Highways Bill passed through Committee.

The Duke of ARGYLL resumed the debate on his motion for the production of the circular of November, 1864, addressed by Prince Gortchakoff to the Russian Ambassadors abroad. This, he contended, showed that Russia, in her advances in Central Asia, was acting on a settled principle; and, in examining how this principle would affect her relations with Afghanistan, he argued that we must now consider ourselves as coterminous with Russia, and as having lost in Asia our insular position. We should be compelled, therefore, to prepare a military frontier which would be impregnable, under which we might rest in peace. Lord CRANBROOK expressed his satisfaction with the general tone of the Duke of Argyll's speech, and regretted that steps had not been taken earlier to make it known to Russia what she might not do. No doubt the financial condition of India had for a long time discouraged any attempt being made to prepare seriously for a Russian advance; but now that we had become coterminous with Russia, though it was useless to bandy hard words, we must give her to understand that we were thoroughly determined to protect the interests of India. Lord KIMBERLEY congratulated the House on the tone in which the subject had been discussed. He admitted that we had no longer the advantage of an insular position in India, and, discussing our future position, he deprecated yielding to alarmist views, and pointed out that our defensive position ought not to be too far from our base. Lord SALISBURY protested against the doctrine apparently laid down by Lord Granville earlier in the evening that the Opposition ought not to canvass or condemn the conduct of the Government at such a crisis. As to the Duke of Argyll's speech, he thought it took too lenient a view of the promises which Russia had made; and he welcomed Lord Kimberley's speech as a proof that the Government recognised in the defence of India a duty in which no shortcomings could be allowed. After some remarks from Lord GRANVILLE, who thought the general effect of the debate would be most valuable in India, the motion was agreed to.

The Redistribution Bill was introduced and was read a first time, and the House adjourned at twenty-five minutes past six o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—TUESDAY.

In the House of Commons, at the time of private business, there was a short discussion on the Channel Tunnel Bill, the second reading of which was lost by 99 votes to 281.

Mr. GLADSTONE brought down the message from the Queen respecting the marriage of Princess Beatrice, and it was ordered to be taken into consideration on Thursday.

In answer to Mr. LABOUCHERE, the CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER said that about seven and a quarter millions of the Vote of Credit had been spent or were due; and, in addition to this, about three-quarters of a million would be required for the carrying out the new policy beyond the sums already voted.

On the report of the English Registration Bill, Sir MASSEY LOPES moved that it be recommitted for the purpose of inserting a clause throwing the expenses of registration upon imperial taxation. Mr. GLADSTONE remarked that the principle for which Sir Massey Lopes contended would imply that all local charges should be transferred to the imperial Exchequer. Though admitting that personalty owed a debt to realty, he declined to accept the amendment, mainly because it involved a great and complex question, which, he said, was incompatible with the engagement which the Government had entered into to pass the Seats Bill, and all the measures connected with it, in time for an early general election. The complex changes required in the registration system could not be brought about within the limited period now at the disposal of Parliament. But, in order more effectually to carry out the concession already made, the Government would make a further allowance to meet the increased charges of overseers and other officers with respect to county registration. In England and Scotland they would make a further grant on the basis of 2d. per name, which, in England, would amount to about £20,000. To Ireland, where it was proposed that the principle should be applied to boroughs as well as to counties, a specific sum of £15,000 would be granted. Sir MICHAEL HICKS-BEACH denied that Sir Massey Lopes wished to throw all local burdens upon the national Exchequer. He complained that the Government had not included the English and Scotch boroughs in the proposals which they had made, and thought that Ireland in this respect was too favourably treated. The Government proposal was not acceptable because it did not concede the principle of the amendment. Sir CHARLES DILKE justified the proposals of the Government, which, he pointed out, would only have effect for one year to begin with, and the amendment was negatived on a division by 280 to 258.

The House then took up the consideration of the amendments and new clauses. Mr. DAVEY moved the addition of a clause providing that the receipt of parochial medical relief should not disqualify a voter. The clause was opposed by the ATTORNEY-GENERAL; but after some considerable discussion was carried by 87 to 50. Mr. J. STUART moved an addition to Clause 15 in order to prevent undergraduates being registered as voters for the City of Oxford and the borough of Cambridge. The amendment was carried by 84 to 81. Mr. Stuart then moved a consequential amendment to repeal a clause of the Cambridge Award Act of 1856 in order to leave graduates of that university free to vote for the borough provided they possess the necessary qualification. This led to an animated debate; but in the end the amendment was carried by 89 to 24. The Bill was read a third time. The Scotch Registration Bill was also read a third time; and after some further business had been disposed of, the House adjourned at ten minutes past two o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—WEDNESDAY.

The usual motion that Committees have leave to meet to-day at two, being Ascension Day, was opposed by Mr. L. STANLEY, who on a division was supported by four votes against 54. The Irish Registration Bill (Report) occupied all the afternoon. Many amendments and new clauses were disposed of, but the only topic which excited much interest or discussion referred to the much vexed question of the enfranchisement of University students. Mr. HEALY moved a clause preventing the registration of students of Trinity College, Dublin, and Mr. PLUNKET, in opposing it, pointed out that these students were in an entirely different position from Oxford and Cambridge undergraduates. Mr. A. ARNOLD, on the other side, reflected on the inconsistency of the English Attorney-General. Mr. H. FOWLER, however, maintained that, as the existing law prevented the enfranchisement of Oxford and Cambridge students, it was quite consistent for the Attorney-General to refrain from opposing a motion which assimilated the English and Irish law in that respect. Mr. OSBORNE MORGAN supported the clause, and Dr. CAMERON, on the other side, argued, from the Liberal point of view, against the disfranchisement of any students, whether in England, Scotland, or Ireland. Sir R. A. CROSS opposed the disfranchisement of any capable citizens, whether students or not, in a measure which had for its object the extension of the franchise, and called upon the Government to stand by their declarations that this was not to be made a disfranchising measure. Mr. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN expressed his own personal opinion that no student who possessed the necessary qualification ought to be disfranchised. While disagreeing from some of his colleagues, he pointed out that, though in England the Courts of Law had expressly decided that Oxford and Cambridge undergraduates were not entitled to the vote, an entirely different decision had been given as to students of Trinity College, Dublin. Lord E. CAVENDISH spoke in support of the clause and Mr. J. LOWTHER opposed it.

In the end, a division was challenged, and the clause was negatived by 190 to 87.

Shortly afterwards the debate was adjourned.

After some further business had been disposed of, the House adjourned at five minutes to six o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—THURSDAY.

Lord HARTINGTON, answering a question from Lord G. HAMILTON, said that of the four-and-a-half millions of the Vote of Credit applicable to the Soudan and Upper Egypt, two-and-a-half millions had been spent or were due. In answer to Mr. BRODRICK, the CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER said that no provision had been made for the paper money circulation by General Gordon. In answer to Mr. SUTHERLAND, Lord E. FITZMAURICE said the Government had agreed to send representatives to a Cholera Conference at Rome.

In Committee of the whole House, Mr. GLADSTONE moved a resolution granting an annuity of £6,000 a year to the Princess Beatrice on her marriage with Prince Henry of Battenberg. This union, he said, like those of her Royal brothers and sisters, had been dictated by genuine attachment, and it was understood that her life, which had hitherto been devoted to filial duties, would continue to be spent after marriage in this country. Of Prince Henry, he said that the promise of his future was of the most satisfactory character, and that the most favourable anticipations had been formed of him; and, alluding to the fact that this was the last of the Queen's children to be provided for, he intimated that in the next Parliament a committee would be appointed to consider the plan on which what he called the "secondary provisions" for the younger members of the Royal Family should be made. Sir S. NORTHCOTE, in seconding the motion, passed a warm eulogium on the domestic virtues of the Princess, and, as to the last suggestion of the Prime Minister, expressed a doubt whether it was wise to introduce it at a time when it could not be dealt with. Mr. LABOUCHERE opposed the vote, and, dealing with the argument that the Queen has given up a large income for the Civil List, disputed the title of the Sovereign to what are called the hereditary revenues of the Crown. He denied, also, that there was any understanding to provide for the Queen's children, and maintained that there was a strong feeling in the country that Her Majesty's income was large enough to provide for her family. Mr. LEWIS made some remarks to the effect that the Queen's son-in-law ought not to take part in party politics. Colonel STEBLE urged that this was the last occasion on which Her Majesty would have to ask for such a grant, and thought it ungracious to refuse it. Mr. O'BRIEN, amid some laughter and other interruptions, expressed his views as to the loyalty of the Irish people, and Mr. W. REDMOND spoke in a similar strain; after which the resolution was carried by 337 to 38.

The House then resumed the adjourned debate on the report of the Irish Registration Bill, which occupied it until a late hour. Many new clauses and amendments were moved, but they were all of a routine and formal character. The clauses and schedules of the Bill were gone through, and Mr. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN moved its recommittal with respect to new clauses regarding temporary provision for remuneration of local officials. The Bill was recommitted and amended in Committee. It was then read a third time.

The LORD ADVOCATE moved for leave to introduce the Crofters Bill, and the motion was adjourned till Monday.

The other Orders were disposed of, and the House adjourned at twenty-five minutes to three o'clock.

POLITICAL AND PERSONAL.

The Marquis of Salisbury has intimated his intention of being present at the dinner to be given, on the 20th inst., at the Duke of Wellington's Riding School, under the auspices of the Middlesex Conservative Association. Sir Charles Mills, M.P., will preside, supported by Lord George Hamilton and Mr. O. E., Coope, members for the county.

The Marquis of Salisbury has acknowledged the receipt of the resolution passed at a large meeting of the electors of Paddington on the 6th inst., and which expressed its entire want of confidence in the present Ministry. He says:—"The growing embarrassments of our position are calculated to excite the most anxious solicitude, and call imperatively for a change in the spirit and methods of our policy, which is hardly to be hoped for from the present Administration." Sir Stafford Northcote, in a similar letter, says that he hopes that the battle will be fought everywhere as it seems to be fought at Paddington.

At Nelson, near Burnley, on Wednesday, a Conservative bazaar was opened by Viscount Cranborne. A public luncheon was afterwards held, at which Mr. ECROYD, M.P., who presided, said the conduct of the Government had involved the nation in an enormous expenditure of blood and money which had not purchased one material advantage. The policy of the Conservatives was one that would bring peace, and not an armed force. The fact that Mr. Gladstone had been at the head of affairs six years was a political mistake which would have to be expiated by an enormous outlay of British blood and money, and he also feared by a great loss of English trade and commerce. He condemned the suggested alliance of the Conservative party with the Whigs, who, he said, were people who thought one way and voted another.

Sir Thomas Brassey, Secretary to the Admiralty, addressing a Liberal meeting at Hastings on Wednesday night, said that the strength of the navy could only be maintained by continuous national exertions. A strong navy could not be created by one political party alone. Both parties must pursue a national policy if the efficiency of the navy was to be upheld. The construction of a powerful navy must be the work of years. The present Administration had introduced a series of valuable improvements in the type of vessels which had been built and had given particular attention to the new weapon, the torpedo, whilst they had added to the vessels for the protection of commerce. With regard to the actual state of the navy, he could say that in relation to ironclads we were a fair match for any three naval Powers, whilst we were building torpedo vessels with an activity which must very shortly place us in a position of superiority that could not be challenged. He expressed a national sentiment when he said that it had added enormously to the power of the empire to know that in a great national crisis we could trust not alone to our own stout arms, but had at call our brothers in the Antipodes, ready to stand by us shoulder to shoulder.

The City Carlton Club "Habitation" of the Primrose League held a banquet on Wednesday night in the club-house. The Lord Mayor presided, and the company included Mr. Plunket, M.P., Sir A. Borthwick, Mr. Grantham, M.P., Major-General Palliser, and Mr. Marriott, M.P. There was also a large company of City Conservatives. Mr. Plunket proposed "The memory of Lord Beaconsfield." He alluded to the great qualities of mind which had embalmed Lord Beaconsfield's name in the recollection of the English people, and then contrasted the state in which he left the Empire with its condition to-day. It was a contrast of tranquillity, confidence, and respect, with wars and rumours of wars and the name of England rendered a bye-word amongst the nations. In Canada, South Africa, North Africa, and on the confines of India there was anxiety, in some cases amounting to dismay. We had been brought to the verge of war with the formidable Empire of Russia, and if peace had really been secured it was not peace with honour, but something rather of the nature of a dishonourable truce. Millions of money had been wasted. If war had broken out no doubt our character and resources would have brought us out of it successfully. But why had we been brought to the brink of such a formidable engagement without allies? Notwithstanding the boasted concert of Europe, we were isolated because every nation knew our Government could be squeezed. This was due to the fact that it was really a coalition Government, which, besides containing men who he admitted were devoted to the interests of the country, with English principles, sympathies, and traditions, had within it others who, although weak in the division lobby, were powerful in the Cabinet, and who held the doctrines that England was no longer equal to the responsibilities that had devolved upon her, and that the democracy cared little for foreign affairs. He dreaded even more than the dangers of the present the dangers of the future. He feared the influence that would be brought to bear on the newly enfranchised people by the dangerous political advisers to whom he referred. Our working men were not sufficiently well informed in history and geography to ensure a true understanding of foreign affairs, and this new school of politicians are endeavouring to play upon their weaknesses and ignorance by crying out against the expense of a sound foreign policy, though that policy would ultimately save millions to the country. Would the other members of the Liberal party lend their countenance to this disastrous teaching, and for the purpose of keeping their party together hesitate to tell the people the truth on these subjects? If the extreme Radical section was allowed to poison the country their pessimist productions might soon be fulfilled, and the English people become unworthy of its traditions. The Conservative party by its various organisations must labour to counteract this influence. They should derive inspiration from the memory of their late chief, who, unlike the present Prime Minister, had always been loyal to friends and allies, and to those whom he employed. No public servant had ever been deserted by him. No people, however barbarous, had been betrayed after placing confidence in the word of England. He was reminded when thinking of him of the lines which a Scottish poet addressed to the memory of the great Cavalier warrior Dundee :—

"Oh, thou lion-hearted statesman,
Reck not of the after time—
Honour may be deemed dishonour,
Loyalty be called a crime.
Sleep in peace with kindred ashes
Of the noble and the true,
Hearts that never failed their country,
Hands that never treason knew."

The toast was drunk in solemn silence.—Mr. Marriott, M.P., in responding to the toast of the "Houses of Parliament," proposed by Mr. B. White, spoke of the Upper Chamber as having recently earned the gratitude of the whole Empire. The Prime Minister he characterised as the finest actor the world had ever seen. He had actually talked the House of Commons into the belief the other night that he was an Englishman every inch of him, so that they unanimously trusted him with eleven millions sterling. He was playing the hypocrite all the time. (Cheers.) The money that he pretended was wanted to fight Russia was intended to cover his past misdeeds in the Soudan. Not only the House of Commons but the nation and the Empire had been befooled by the man whom the Radical party fell down and worshipped as if he were a god. (Cheers.) He trusted the country would not long continue to be deceived.

Lord Derby was present on Saturday night at a dinner given to Lord Carrington, the newly-appointed Governor of New South Wales. He said he had been, and was afraid he still was, a sceptic as to those large schemes of imperial federation which were so much in the air just now :—"The best way to make the ties between England and the colonies permanent was to allow those ties to remain very loose and very elastic. They ought to aim rather at that kind of unity which was produced by sympathy of feeling, and a general community of interests than that which was created by a rigid administrative organisation which, under circumstances not yet foreseen, might only prove galling and troublesome. Of the present existence of that moral unity they had abundant proof, not merely in that most fortunate transaction of the sending of the New South Wales contingent to the Soudan, but, what was more important, in the unexpected warmth of feeling which had been developed both in Australia and at home. It was no new thing for the colonies to offer assistance in time of Imperial need. More than a century ago the American colonies, as they were then, offered the same spontaneous and voluntary assistance; but we would not have it, and the consequences they all knew. He thought that any proposal to create a general representative body for the whole Empire might expose them to the risk of repeating that old mistake. Although the colonies could not be taxed without being represented, still it would come to nearly the same thing, for they might be outnumbered and outvoted. That would be like going back to the old policy of Lord North and George III., and that he supposed was not what they wanted. He believed the best thing they could do was to develop the present system. He had on more than one occasion consulted the representatives of the colonies; and he was ready to go further and say that, where any of them differed from any part of the Imperial policy which was of a nature that could come before the British Parliament, he should be willing to lay on the table any representations or remonstrances they might make, so that they might have a practical voice in the discussion. He had no doubt that in the new Parliament the system of Grand Committees in the House of Commons would be revived and extended. If so, he hoped there would be a Grand Committee on Colonial Affairs. If the Agents-General had the right to appear before this Committee on matters affecting them, they would be represented as far as our institutions allowed." Lord Carrington, in responding to the toast of his health, said he should endeavour to promote the interests and welfare of the colony of New South Wales, to maintain her honour and her credit, and to do his utmost to strengthen those ties of mutual regard and affection between the colonies and the mother country which had made the British Empire the greatest amongst all the great nations of the world.

Lord Randolph Churchill, in a letter commenting upon the speech of Lord Granville in the House of Lords on Tuesday evening, remarks that the Peers would do well to adopt the rule of the House of Commons which prohibits members from quoting in debate speeches made in either House of Parliament in previous debates of the same session. Referring to the speech which he (Lord Randolph Churchill) made on the 4th inst., and to which reference was made in the debate in the House of Lords on Tuesday night, he adds :—

"If Lord Granville had wished to reply to that speech with any regard to the received notions of ordinary Parliamentary fair-play, he might have adopted one of two courses. He might have instructed Lord Edmond Fitzmaurice to take advantage of the debate on Monday, May 11, in the House of Commons to correct what Lord Granville assumes to be my errors. Lord Edmond Fitzmaurice is certainly not inferior to his chief in intelligence, and might have been trusted to at least that extent. Or Lord Granville might have given me notice that he was intending to reply in the House of Lords to certain statements made by me in the House of Commons; and I could have asked some friend of mine among the Peers to reply on behalf of the accusations of the Foreign Secretary. These two courses were, however, in the opinion of Lord Granville, open to the serious objection—in the first place, that they were fair and honourable courses; and, in the second place, that by adopting either of them he would have been precluded from enjoying complete immunity in making his foolish and ignorant charges against myself."

Lord Randolph remarks that Lord Granville stated: "But as to the accuracy of his (Lord Randolph Churchill's) statement, I marked no less than nine passages, some of them inaccurate and some of them exactly opposed to the truth." After this preamble, however, Lord Granville only thought it worth while to notice six out of the nine statements which were in his opinion inaccurate. Lord Randolph takes up the alleged inaccuracies in succession, and proves from official documents that he was correct in every instance. He concludes with the following remarks :—

"All I would add, in conclusion, is this—that every statement that I have made in the House of Commons about the Russian advance in Central Asia was founded on official documents in the possession of the public, and that not one of the colleagues of the Foreign Secretary dared to impugn the accuracy of those statements, either on the day they were made or on the Monday following, when another opportunity was open to them. The process of sneaking down to the House of Lords and making there, without notice, a variety of deliberate misrepresentations, deliberate misquotations, and false assertions is quite in accordance with the little that is known of the public career of Earl Granville, Knight of the Garter, and, to the misfortune of his country, her Majesty's principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs."

MR. ALFRED AUSTIN ON THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

In a letter, written in reply to an invitation to contest one of the divisions of the borough of Leeds at the general election, Mr. Alfred Austin says of the House of Commons :—

"I am profoundly of opinion that the country is being demoralised and the Empire imperilled by that Assembly, which has gradually concentrated into itself all the representation of the State, only to find itself impotent against the manœuvres of the Cabinet, when led by a bold and dexterous tactician. No man any longer is proud of being an Englishman. With a gigantic expenditure, but a skeleton Army, and an improvised Fleet, is it wonderful if we have forfeited our honour, and had to ransom our existence?

"It is our Constitutional machinery—in other words, the House of Commons—that has wrought all this mischief, and prepared all this shame. I often hear men say, "If we could only get rid of Mr. Gladstone." . . Mr. Gladstone is only the figure-head of an unseaworthy vessel. . The very foundations of the Commonwealth are being undermined, and the pillars of the Empire shaken. But the House of Commons has been too fiercely occupied with Franchise Bills and Redistribution Bills to heed the convulsion.

"The House of Commons is, doubtless, an excellent sounding-board for the voice of personal ambition—a first-rate arena for a gladiator whose tongue is his sword. But I look upon the gift of popular oratory with the gravest mistrust. It is in silence that all great works are written and all great deeds are done. Men of action found Empires; rhetoricians destroy them.

"It is only outside the House of Commons that these truths can be urged, and only, I believe, by people outside the House of Commons that they can be clearly apprehended. Believing as I do, that until Foreign and Imperial policy, the Army and the Navy are committed to safer keeping than that of 650 representatives of the people putting cross questions, and fifteen Cabinet Ministers returning crooked answers, there is no help for it but to go on jolting from blunder to blunder, and descending from abasement to abasement. I will do what little I can, outside the House of Commons, to discredit its authority, and to curtail its functions. To ask a man to enter it in order to serve his country, is to ask him to waste his life, and break his heart, over an impossible undertaking."

MAY MEETINGS.

The Lord Bishop of Gloucester and Bristol presided at the annual meeting of the Missions to Seamen at Willis's Rooms, King-street, St. James's, S.W., on Wednesday, when the Lord Bishop of Victoria, Admiral Sir W. King Hall, K.C.B., and the Revs. R. B. Boyer, M.A., and J. S. Flynn, M.A., were amongst the speakers. According to the report read by Commander Dawson, R.N., the most indefatigable of secretaries, the gross income of the society for the year 1884 was £26,368 19s. 8d., being £3,334 more than in the previous year. Notwithstanding so many seamen being out of work and out of wages during the year 1884, nearly 2,000 more Bibles were bought by them at the full price than in the previous year; nearly 1,000 more seamen, fishermen, and bargemen pledged themselves to total abstinence from intoxicating drinks than in the year before; the attendance of seamen at Divine worship, conducted by the Missions to Seamen agents, showed a large increase, not only on Sundays, but also at the daily mission services; a large number of sailors had received the Holy Communion, and many captains, officers, and men had been enrolled as volunteer helpers and associates for the promotion of godly living amongst their comrades and crews. The Missions to Seamen now occupies forty-nine seaports, at home and abroad, with its sixty-eight chaplains and readers, &c., who are furnished with two steam mission yachts, eight sailing vessels, and many boats, with twenty-one churches and institutes, and seventeen mission-rooms. Within the last five years, 27,188 Bibles and Prayer-Books have been bought by seamen, fishermen, and bargemen from the Missions to Seamen chaplains; whilst 42,387 seafaring men, exclusive of their wives and families, have become total abstainers during the last six years. 7,289 ships had sailed with library bags or boxes on board, and 4,220 vessels with parcels of reading in their forecastles. There are still thousands of vessels belonging to this Christian Empire which are never visited by a clergyman; thousands of seamen, fishermen, and bargemen, flitting past our churches and chapels in their vessels on the waters, neither in health, in sickness, or in death itself, have the Divine message conveyed to them, which would strengthen them in temptation, cheer them in sorrow and illness, and support them in death. The shipping in many important seaports, at home and abroad, are destitute of religious ministrations, and several seaboard clergymen urgently request help, which cannot be given for lack of funds. The society, which is carrying on a truly good work, and the efforts of which are greatly appreciated in every part of the world, therefore asks for increased funds, that the spiritual needs of men earning their living upon the waters may still further be supplied. The Chairman congratulated those present upon the signal advance which had taken place during the year. But the work yet to be done was vast indeed, and he appealed to them to subscribe liberally so that the objects of the society, which he regarded as one of the truest evangelistic societies, could be still further extended. The Bishop of Victoria, Hong Kong, in moving the adoption of the report, spoke of his personal contact with the seamen in that country, and remarked that he had come there to find some one to work on behalf of that society in Hong Kong.—Admiral Sir W. King Hall, K.C.B., seconded the motion, and among other speakers were the Rev. R. B. Boyer, M.A., Superintendent of the Missions, and the Rev. J. S. Flynn, M.A., Chaplain for Falmouth Roads.

The Lord Mayor, M.P. (president of the Thames Church Mission, extending in its operations from Putney to the Nore), took the chair on Monday at the 41st annual meeting of this organisation, at the Mansion House. The report stated that the committee had laid great emphasis on temperance work, and off Gravesend had found many opportunities for efforts amongst emigrants. In connection with the recent expedition to the Soudan, the agents distributed scriptures and tracts very extensively on board all the transports. Amongst the 6,000 navvies at work at the Tilbury Docks the society's agents had continued to labour with acceptance and usefulness, and over 700 had signed the temperance pledge. About 28,000 visits had been made to ships and steamers, while there had been 169,800 attendants at 4,430 services. The work in the North Sea had grown so rapidly that a distinct organisation seemed in every way desirable. Accordingly the "Mission to Deep-sea Fishermen" and the Thames Church Mission were now distinct and separate organisations, but were in hearty sympathy. With regard to finance, the increase of the previous four years had been maintained in 1884, during which period the committee had received towards the general purposes of the mission £5,766, and the year closed with a credit balance of £22. During the year the committee have resolved to meet outstanding liabilities, and to that end they had been compelled to sell out stock to the amount of £600. The Chairman emphasised the importance of the work, as to send abroad converted sailors was to send a blessing to all the ends of the earth. The Rev. Prebendary Whittington, M.A., urged the utility of such a society to a class who were often necessarily absent from public worship, but who were nevertheless men to whom Christians at home were much indebted. They had a Divine example for their efforts, for Christ worked extensively among fishermen. Mr. W. E. Ellice testified to his estimate of the usefulness and efficiency of the mission, which he had gathered from a connection with it extending over many years. Personal testimony concerning the work having been given by three lay missionaries—Messrs. John Loman, G. Symonds, and Captain Barne, the latter of whom testified to the good done in connection with free breakfasts during the winter, the Rev. F. A. Lillington, M.A., moved a resolution of thanksgiving for the work accomplished by the mission during the past forty years, which was seconded by the Rev. Henry Bloomer. Captain the Hon. Francis Maude, R.N., Sir C. H. M. Buckle, K.C.B., and others also took part in the proceedings.

In connection with the thirty-sixth anniversary of the Society for Irish Church Missions the annual breakfast took place in St. James's Hall, Piccadilly, on Tuesday morning, presided over by Captain the Hon. Francis Maude, who was supported by a large number of friends. The Chairman spoke of the important corroborative testimony regarding the changed state of Ireland, and Dr. Bennett delivered an address upon the "Ministry of Forgiveness." Subsequently the public meeting was held in the large hall, when the report, as submitted by the Rev. H. W. Townsend, referred to the social, political, and religious change in the state of Ireland. The committee were able to state that the dissatisfaction with authority, once supposed to be infallible, had spread far and wide, so that diversities of opinion were freely expressed, not only by the people, but even by their priests. An encouraging feature in connection with the mission was the fact that the Archbishop of Dublin and the Bishops of Tuam and Cashel had consented to become vice-presidents of that society. Efforts had been made to increase the efficiency of several departments of the mission with marked success, especially with regard to mission schools. The death of several well-known supporters of the society was next alluded to, and the report went on to speak of the finances. The society commenced the year in debt to their bankers to the extent of £1,000, but that debt had been discharged. Owing to the falling-off in the sources of income—legacies alone being less than the previous year by £1,464—the committee again closed their accounts with a debt of £1,200. In consequence of the depressed state of the country and the reduced incomes, it was resolved to sell out so much of their reserve fund as would enable the committee to discharge the above liability. The income in 1883 was £19,767, and in 1884 £19,042. The report concluded by stating that there were many openings and great encouragements to mission work in Ireland. The chairman referred to the great loss the society had sustained in the death of the late Earl Cairns, and spoke of the great change taking place among the Roman Catholics in Ireland. All confusion, he said, was turning to the opening up of new neighbourhoods for the spread of the Gospel. The adoption of the report was moved by the Rev. E. W. Makinson (Leeds), seconded by the Rev. F. Baldey (Southsea), and the other speakers were the Rev. Canon Fleming, superintendent of the Ballinakill Mission, and the Rev. H. Fishe, superintendent of the Dublin Mission. It was mentioned amid much interest that the late Earl Cairns's annual contribution of £50 to the mission had this year been continued by his widow.

The annual meeting of the friends and supporters of the London City Mission was held last week at Exeter Hall, under the presidency of Sir W. M'Arthur, M.P., in the absence of the Earl of Shaftesbury. From the fiftieth annual report it appears that the ordinary receipts during the past year were £50,195, almost exactly the same as last year, and the extraordinary receipts were £20,773. The report was adopted. The Rev. H. Webb Peploe moved the following resolution :—

That the close of the fiftieth year of the society's history, witnessing as it does a larger staff of missionaries, and a more extended sphere of usefulness than at any previous period, is a time for special gratitude and thanksgiving to God, but that the population of London having more than doubled during the past half-century, this meeting is of opinion that so far from relaxing its efforts, the society ought to extend its labours until every necessitous district is occupied, and every neglected class of the population is cared for.

The resolution was seconded by the Rev. R. P. Downes and carried, and the proceedings closed with a vote of thanks to the chairman.

The annual meeting of the British Society for the Propagation of the Gospel among the Jews was held on Tuesday night in Exeter Hall. Mr. George Williams presided, and delivered an address on the objects of the society. The Rev. J. Dunlop read the report, which stated that upwards of 100 workers had done a conspicuously grand work during the year. It was a wonderful providence which led the Treasurer and Secretary to South Russia last spring, as it had been the occasion of the inauguration of that movement among the Jews Christward which had been noticed by hundreds of journals both at home and in other lands—a movement which seemed destined to herald the dawn of a glorious day for Jews and Gentiles alike. The financial condition of the society, considering the agricultural and commercial depression, was regarded as satisfactory. The meeting was also addressed by the Treasurer and the Revs. Dr. Saphir, W. M. Statham, Dr. M. Laseron, Ossian Davies, C. Spurgeon, Isaac Levinsohn, W. K. Rowe, and J. Newman.

The Earl of Chichester presided at the fifth anniversary of the Church of England Zenana Missionary Society, held in Prince's Hall, Piccadilly. There was a large attendance of ladies. The report, as submitted by the clerical secretary, the Rev. Gilbert Karney, M.A., showed that the present mission staff consisted of 388 workers, viz.: 104 missionaries, and assistant missionaries, 284 Bible women and native helpers. The increase during the year had been six full missionaries, four assistant missionaries, and twenty-two native helpers. One of the society's

most energetic workers, Miss Norman, had been called away by God. There were twelve ladies at the training home, ten of whom hoped to go forth to the work. The income from all sources for the past year had been £22,051, as compared with £20,240 the previous year. Of this sum £1,326 belonged to the capital fund. The total expenditure has been £21,375, as against £21,785 the preceding year. Of this the foreign expenditure had been £17,704, a decrease of £166. The home expenditure had been £3,833, showing a decrease of £248. Besides this a sum of £4,200 had been raised and expended in the missions, as compared with £3,600 in the previous year. The missionaries had some 7,000 women and girls under direct personal teaching, 2,000 and upwards in zenanas, and over 4,000 in 129 schools under their charge. This represented an increase in the year of 900 pupils and eight schools. Two special means of extending the work of the society had engaged the attention of the committee—viz., itineration by female evangelists, and the diffusion of missionary zeal among the native Christian women. After noting the increase in the number of honorary missionaries, the report concluded by stating that the committee had carried out their long-cherished plan of a capital fund to enable them to meet the necessary fluctuations of income. The accounts for the year included £1,300 to be reserved for this special purpose. The CHAIRMAN expressed his deep interest in the work. He regarded that society as a sort of pioneer to the preaching of the Gospel by their missionaries. They, as a country, had done much for India, and they had in many ways helped and promoted the prosperity of those under the British Government. The extension of missionary work in India was also remarkable. His Lordship referred to the high position to which the women of that country were being raised, particularly in the higher classes, a fact which was mainly due to the spread of the Gospel by their missionaries. In conclusion he asked for their constant and liberal support of the society. In the absence of Dr. Butler, Dean-Designate of Gloucester, the report was moved by Mr. EUGENE STOCK, who also spoke of the rapid spread of Christianity in India. Amongst those on the platform and on the list of speakers were the Rev. H. P. Parker, M.A. (who seconded the adoption of the report), Major-General Haig, R.E., Rev. R. H. Maddox, M.A., Colonel Chitty, General Hutchinson, Mr. G. Arbuthnot, Rev. Dr. Morgan, and several others.

The eighty-sixth annual meeting of the Religious Tract Society was held in Exeter Hall, and, as usual, was attended by a large number of its London friends and subscribers. Mr. Francis Peek presided. After the meeting had been opened with prayer, the Rev. Dr. WHITE presented an abstract of the report for the year ending March 31, 1885, which showed that the work in its various departments had been carried on with undiminished vigour. The receipts during the past year had been £206,558, being a decrease of £4,821 as compared with the receipts of the previous year. This was almost wholly accounted for by the decrease of £4,366 in the missionary funds of the society. An earnest appeal was made for a permanent increase of the society's missionary funds, to provide for the greatly increased calls upon its aid. There had been issued during the year 737 new publications, of which 182 were tracts. The issues from the home depôt had been 70,966,605, of which 28,571,750 were tracts. These publications had been, as usual, varied in their character—ranging from Lechler's *Life of Wycliffe* and the interesting and valuable work on Canada by the Marquis of Lorne, to the tract, handbill, and text-card. Special attention had been directed to works illustrative of Christian missions, of the fields in which they were carried on, and their modes of operation. The society had assisted publication work in four new languages, raising the total number of languages in which it has published to 172. The *Pilgrim's Progress* had now, by the help of the society, been published in seventy languages. The issues of the society from its formation made a total circulation of 2,368,277,880. The report was adopted on the motion of the Rev. R. W. THOMPSON, (London Missionary Society), seconded by Mr. R. N. CUST, and supported by Dr. MARSHALL LANG (of Glasgow). The CHAIRMAN expressed his great sympathy with the objects of the society, and spoke highly of its missionary operations, as he regarded the tract as a mighty power in the direction of the conversion of sinners. He also paid a high eulogium to the Christian character of the late Earl Cairns. The meeting was subsequently addressed by the Revs. J. R. WOOD (of Upper Holloway) and F. A. C. LILLINGSTONE.

The annual conference of the Church of England Sunday School Institute was held in Exeter Hall on Tuesday, under the chairmanship of the Right Rev. the Lord Bishop of St. David's. The subject for discussion was, "What lesson notes are required for the different classes in a Sunday School?" and was opened by the Rev. J. N. SHEARMAN, M.A., who suggested that notes on the lessons should be graduated, and that there should be separate lessons for the Catechism. The Rev. J. W. Gedge, M.A. (Diocesan Inspector of Schools for West Surrey and the Channel Islands), the Revs. S. Carter, H. C. Hutchinson, and W. H. Dearden, Mr. Eugene Stock, and others took part in the meeting. At the public meeting in the evening the chair was occupied by the Bishop of Ripon, who was supported by a large number of friends on the platform. Mr. JOHN PALMER, the secretary, read the report, which referred to the deaths of the late Bishop of London and Earl Cairns, and also to the progress which Sunday-schools had made. With a view to paying off the debt upon the institute's building, a special appeal had been made, and in response to this £500 had been raised. The subscriptions and donations received during the previous year for the General Fund amounted to £2,498. The expenses amounted to £2,673, and the receipts for the Trade Department to £11,913. The total gross receipts from all sources reached £14,853 The proposed organisation of a Sunday-school Institute for the United States, on the plan of the Church of England Sunday-school Institute, had been fully realised. The estimated number of teachers was 1,883,431, and 15,755,703 scholars. The total number of associations in union with the institute was 326—46 in the metropolis, 265 in other parts of the United Kingdom and Ireland, and 15 in India and the colonies. The CHAIRMAN, after expressing his great pleasure at being present that night, referred to the great loss the diocese of London had sustained in the death of Dr. Jackson, who had presided so long over the diocese with such self-denial and painstaking carefulness. The report, he said, was largely encouraging, and he contended that Sunday-schools existed as a kind of witness to the true greatness of mankind. An ardent student of human nature gifted with the power of insight declared that great men were they who had the power to perceive that the spiritual forces of the world were greater than the material, and that thought ruled the world. He feared that that need to be repeated until it was thoroughly grafted into their hearts. In the course of further remarks the Bishop alluded to the present system of criticism which he entreated them to face, and advised Sunday-school teachers to teach in detail doctrine and system. The Bishop of LONDON, in moving the adoption of the report, spoke of the progress which, he said, was prevalent at the present day in connection with Sunday-schools. They appeared more and more in their true character than they did in the past. They desired that religious instruction should be given on week-days, but there was the danger of religious instruction becoming too much of a "week-day" character, too intellectual, and not so truly spiritual. In the present day they were in a far better position to give religious instruction, and consequently there was an imperative demand for such knowledge. The emissaries of evil were unquestionably active, and he beseeched them to take up that work and to counteract all such evils. The Bishop of PRETORIA seconded the motion, and congratulated the institute on its improved position. A special address to teachers was given by the Rev. E. A. STUART, M.A., vicar of St. James's, Holloway, and amongst other speakers were the Rev. Canon STOWELL, M.A., of Manchester (who regarded the Sunday and day schools as the right and left hands of the parish priest), and the Rev. J. F. KITTO.

The ordinary monthly meeting of the council of the Incorporated Free and Open Church Association was held on Wednesday evening at 24, Bedford-street, Strand, Mr. F. H. Rooke presiding. The following resolution was passed and ordered to be sent to the Bishop of London :—

That this council cordially welcomes the vigorous appeal of the Bishop of London for increased support to his fund, and respectfully urges on his Lordship the great importance of securing that all the churches indeed should be free and unappropriated, and so available for a greater number of services, and for all parishioners without distinction.

Among other matters the secretary reported that after two days' previous hearing, judgment was given on the 6th inst. in the St. Helen's pew-rent case in favour of the defendant parishioner, who had been summoned by the churchwardens for £11 arrears of pew-rents. The county court judge held that both the Order in Council and deed of consecration which authorised the levying of pew-rents were *ultra vires*, and the contract by the wardens to let the pews was, therefore, illegal and void. There were £150 of arrears of pew-rents awaiting the decision, which would, of course, not now be paid.

In Exeter Hall last week the jubilee meeting of the Church of England Pastoral Aid Society was held, presided over by Bishop Ryan, in the absence of the Earl of Shaftesbury, the President, who was prevented from occupying the chair from indisposition, this being the first time for forty years that his Lordship had been away from the annual meeting. Letters apologising for non-attendance were read from the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Bishops of London, Gloucester, Exeter, Manchester, Ripon, and Rochester, the Dean of Llandaff, and Mr. J. Hoare. The CHAIRMAN regretted the absence of their noble President, but his absence only reminded him of some words he spoke more than forty years ago, when, as Lord Ashley, he said, at the end of an impressive speech on education, that there were many minds to be instructed, many hearts to be softened, and many souls to be saved. He (Earl Shaftesbury) had carried on the principle involved in those words ever since that time, and he (the Bishop) felt his weakness in occupying his position on that occasion. The Rev. J. I. COHEN, one of the secretaries, read the report, which, after recording the death of several well-known supporters of the Society, stated that the income for the past year had been £54,335, including £860 contributed to the Jubilee Fund. The legacies amounted to £3,510 less than in 1884. The ordinary income for the present year was found to exceed the average income of the past five years by £931. The grants had been supplemented by £32,252, raised locally, and £9,200 paid by the Ecclesiastical Commissioners. A grand total of £96,787 had been raised during 1884-5. The expenditure had been £53,626, exceeding the outlay of the previous year by £2,786. In 1883 the number of grants on the society's books was 736; in 1884, 743; and in the last year the number was 760. The number of parishes benefited was 629, against 614 in 1884. The total amount paid by the society for stipends was £2,019,677. The Lord Bishop of ST. DAVIDS moved the adoption of the report, and spoke at length on the state of the Church in Wales, which he regarded as satisfactory. Among those who advocated the claims of the society were the Venerable Archdeacon Richardson, the Right Rev. Bishop Bathurst, Canons Hoare and Tristram, and the Rev. H. A. Favell, of Sheffield.

The annual meeting of the Colonial and Continental Church Society was held last week at Willis's Rooms, King-street, St. James's, and was largely attended. Lord Harleoh was in the chair, and was supported on the platform by Bishop Perry, Captain the Hon. F. Maude, the Bishop of Bathurst (New South Wales), Archdeacon Pinkham (Rupertsland), the Rev. George Barlow (North Queensland), the Hon Thomas H. W. Pelham, the Bishop of Antigua, the Rev. Prebendary Russell Stock, the Rev. Henry Pahtahquahong Chase (Hereditary Chief of the Ojibbeway tribe in Canada), and the Rev. D. LANCASTER M'ANALLY, M.A., secretary to the society. The report was read by the last-named gentleman. It began by referring to finance and administration. The home income had reached a total of £16,973, as against £15,777 last year, showing a seeming growth of £1,196. This was largely a matter of arrrangement, and was nearly balanced by a corresponding increase in the expenditure, arising from the same cause, of £891. The net increase was only £304. The legacies exceeded those of last year by £1,041. Special funds had yielded £3,444, which, together with the money raised and expended abroad, gave a total for the year of £40,132. The society's losses by death included that of its venerable president, the Marquis of Cholmondeley, and that of the late Bishop of London, whose helpful counsel and co-operation were always so readily available to the committee, especially as to chaplaincies in Northern and Central Europe, which are within the episcopal jurisdiction of the See of London. The Archbishop of Dublin had become a vice-patron of the society, and the present Bishop of London, together with the Bishops of Ripon, Exeter, and Huron had been added to the list of vice-patrons. As to the society's colonial operations, the past year had been one of marked activity, since not only had the existing agencies been maintained, but important additions had been made. The new and vast diocese of the Bishop of Riverina, who spoke at last year's meeting, had been the scene of marked activity and progress, as his Lordship's cheering letters proved, and the like encouraging testimony had been received from other parts of the Australian colonies—*e.g.*, from the Bishop of North Queensland and the Bishop of Perth, Western Australia. Good tidings had also reached home from Jamaica and other stations in the West Indies, from the Gold Coast, India, and Canada. Outside the Queen's Imperial sway the services of the Church of England had been upheld in Corfu and in Cairo. In connection with the society's Continental work, the most interesting passage in the report was the following :—"The additions and improvements made to the church at Aix-le-Bains by Lady Whalley in memory of her husband cannot be passed over. . . . . Special arrangements were made for Divine service at this chaplaincy during the Queen's recent visit, and the committee is much gratified to learn that Her Majesty was graciously pleased to recognise them." The chairman, in his opening address, bore witness from his own personal knowledge to the value of the society's Continental work, and referred with pleasure to the above extract from the report. He further spoke with devout thankfulness of the stanch and sterling loyalty of our colonies all round, which they had so grandly shown in England's hour of need. The report was adopted on the motion of the Bishop of BATHURST, seconded by Archdeacon PINKHAM. The same resolution embodied also the nomination of officers for the ensuing year, and thanks to the Rev. C. George Barlow (of North Queensland) for kindly undertaking at very short notice to preach the anniversary sermon in the place of the Dean of Chester, disabled by indisposition. Other speakers were the Rev. H. Pahtahquahong Chase, the converted Ojibbeway chief, who had been for twenty-one years the society's missionary, the Rev. C. G. Barlow, and the Hon. T. H. W. Pelham. Thanks to the chairman were voted on the motion of Bishop Perry, seconded by Captain the Hon. F. Maude, R.N.

The Bishop of Ripon (Dr. Boyd Carpenter) presided at the forty-first annual meeting in support of the claims of the Church of England Scripture Readers' Association, which was held at Willis's Rooms, on Monday afternoon. Prayer having been offered by the clerical secretary (Rev. MARCUS RAINSFORD, B.A.), the *lay* secretary (Mr. T. M. TILLEY) read the annual report, which, after recording a year of steady progress, extended work, and continued blessing, spoke of temperance work undertaken by the readers, the distribution of tracts, and alluded to the death of many valued friends. The finances were at present satisfactory. The gross income for the year amounted to £12,329, this sum being mainly due to the large sum received from legacies. The donations to the General Fund showed an increase upon the average of recent years, and the annual subscriptions had also reached a higher figure. The amount received from the local associations, however, continued to show a decrease. The amount raised by the Ladies' Special Fund showed a decrease of £195. The CHAIRMAN said their duty was to express their sympathy with a very worthy and well-tried movement. The report told them that the society had to vindicate its existence. He did not suppose that any new movement had to contend in the present day with the inertness of human nature to a like extent to what it had forty years ago. They were alive to the necessity for fresh organisations and efforts, but he thought they might be over-organised by the multiplicity of organisations. A movement might be good in its purposes, intentions, and originating motives, but difficult and cumbrous to look at from the standpoint of a parochial clergyman. There was not one who commanded their sympathy more strongly than the parochial clergyman. He then referred to the many calls and responsibilities which rested upon the clergyman, and, adverting to the many organisations in existence at the present day, expressed the opinion that they might be compounded, and thus societies like that would become strengthened. In conclusion he commended the society to their liberal support, because although new it was the conservator of what was old. The report was adopted on the motion of Sir J. KENNAWAY, M.P., seconded by the Rev. R. C. BILLING, Rector of Spitalfields, and supported by the Rev. B. W. BUCKE, Vicar of Holy Trinity, Lee. Among those present were Lord Ebury, Earl of Effingham, Hon. H. Tollemache, Lieutenant-Colonel J. D. Swinburne, Mr. C. B. Stoney, Mr. E. S. Hanbury, and several clergymen.

The annual meeting of the council of the Liberation Society was held on Wednesday afternoon at the Cannon-street Hotel. The report was unanimously adopted, and resolutions were passed approving of the return of Parliamentary candidates pledged to Disestablishment, at least in Scotland and Wales It was also decided that the society should do all in their power to secure the passing of the Acts for the Abolition of Compulsory Oaths and the Amendment of the Burial Laws. Among the speakers were Mr. Illingworth, M.P., Dr. Webster, M.P., and Mr. Lee, M.P. The annual public meeting of the society was held in the evening at the Metropolitan Tabernacle.

METROPOLITAN FREE HOSPITAL.—The aggregate number of patients relieved during the week ending May 9 was—medical 755, surgical 302; total 1,057, of which 413 were new cases.

THE SOUTH AFRICAN CHURCH.

A number of clergy and laity of the South African Church have addressed a petition to the Archbishop of Canterbury representing to him the difficulties resulting from the decision of the Privy Council in the case of Merriman *v.* Williams, and requesting his Grace's counsel and direction in the matter. The ARCHBISHOP'S reply has now been published. It is dated Lambeth, February 5. His Grace observes as follows :—

"You express fears that the *spiritual* connection of the Church of the province with the Church of England may be imperilled, and that various evils of internal dissension may ensue.

"You indicate that difficulties hence arising surround the tenure of your Church property, especially as to those parish churches which are secured by law to the uses of the Church of England; and you consider that, whilst there is division in the Church upon the subject, the Colonial Legislature cannot be expected to solve these difficulties by legislation. . . . I feel satisfied that you would not have addressed me in such terms unless you were prepared, as far as possible, to act on such counsel as I might be enabled to afford. . . . I have no hesitation in saying that, while I honour the spirit of zeal for true doctrine and discipline which it exhibits, I am of opinion that the Proviso is in its *effect* no more than an expression of that zeal, and that it would be better were there in your constitution no such clause. Church causes which arise in your colony (since the Church was pronounced by the law to be of the character of a voluntary association only) cannot find their way into the Ecclesiastical Courts of England, but into the Civil Courts only, and no provision or arrangement can by any possibility exclude them from those Civil Courts. . . . When causes, in their origin ecclesiastical, come before such Civil Courts in England, those Civil Courts must decide by the same standards which are applicable at that time to the Church of England, and those decisions must take effect. Hence the Proviso wears an appearance of doing what it cannot do effectually—viz., excluding the consideration of standards for the time applicable to the Church at home. The Proviso may thus have a certain misleading aspect. . . .

"Some fear is entertained lest along with the severance of the *legal* connection some severance of *spiritual* connection should arise between our Churches. But is this possible? The judgment cited does not for a moment assert that any spiritual bond is loosened by the Proviso or any spiritual relation affected. Nor can I trace any possibility of the spiritual balance being disturbed in any direction. . . I cannot conceive that there is any flaw in our spiritual unity, that any Church in the world can be in union with us if you are not, or that any condition of our law or of your constitution could make the spiritual bond closer.

"To return to the difficulty as to the tenure of certain property. This is a legal and technical difficulty, the remedy for which has been indicated in the same judgment which pointed out the difficulty itself, as well as by the Supreme Court of your own colony. It is, namely, to resort to the colonial Legislature in order to obtain (what those great authorities apparently foresee no difficulty in your obtaining) a declaratory or interpretation Act in reference to the special trust-deed of certain properties.

"In order to appeal to the Legislature with that dignity and also that prospect of success which is essential to a Church approaching a Government, one thing is necessary. It is that union among yourselves which is necessary on infinitely higher grounds. The Church of South Africa possesses a constituted and carefully organised Church government. The governing bodies are Synods of the dioceses and of the province. If government is to subsist at all, minorities, however able, however respected, and however numerous, submit themselves to the majority. If that is not established and acted upon, disunion is inevitable. A persistent minority, which will not yield to the majority, must at last find itself compelled to form a separate organisation with a separate government. . . .

"What would be the position of such a separate organisation? It could only be a secondary voluntary association, not united any more closely with the Church at home; but, on the contrary, it would be dissevered from the Bishop whom the Church of England recognises, and summons to her conferences in England. . . .

"My counsel is—and it is given with strong sympathy, and with a very deep sense of the gravity of the occasion, but without any wavering—

"(1) That the further consideration of the Proviso be postponed, and the decision of the two Synods to preserve it accepted without further discussion. If in the course of five, or even of ten years, any of the anticipated mischiefs be found to have in practice arisen from its existence, all parties will be willing that the question should be then reopened by authority. But in the meantime all parties should combine with utmost loyalty to the Lord, 'who walks in the midst of the Churches,' to work out the beneficent work of their Church, constituted as they have themselves received it.

"(2) That by a unanimous vote (if that can be attained) the Synods should apply to the colonial Parliament to pass an Act which shall place the tenure of the property on a satisfactory footing.

"I believe that if these two resolutions be *ex animo* adopted and acted upon, it will be found that those great ends are attained which the memorialists have so sincerely and so rightly in view—namely, the security of their Church in those true relations to the Church of England, which it is (I am persuaded) quite possible for unestablished Churches to hold towards the mother Church as by law established; its government by the same laws to the full extent to which they are applicable; and its administration by the same rule of discipline in all spiritual and essential particulars.

"These suggestions I most respectfully commend to the memorialists, whose address to me has been manifestly prompted by the most entire loyalty to the Church, and by a genuine anxiety to find the best solution of present difficulties."

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Reserve	£1,170,000	0	0
Premium Reserve	369,248	9	11
Balance of Profit and Loss Account	52,986	15	3
	£1,592,235	5	2

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894 new Policies were issued during the year, assuring	£314,819	0	0
The new Premiums on which amount to the sum of	29,572	1	5
The claims sustained during the year, including 16 endowments, were 296 in number, arising under 397 policies, and the sums payable, after deducting re-assurances, amounted, with bonus additions, to.. ..	346,122	4	4
The income for the year of the Life Branch from premiums and interest amounted to..	471,407	15	7
In the Annuity Branch 83 bonds were granted, securing annuities to the amount of £5,390 12s. 7d. yearly, for which was received by single payment the sum of ..	59,520	11	6
The Life Fund, now amounts to	3,340,918	11	2
The Annuity Fund now amounts to	500,275	17	11

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JOHN BULL.

LONDON, MAY 16.

HISTORY OF THE WEEK.

The details of the capitulation that has been concluded with Russia are not yet settled. There are ominous rumours that difficulties have arisen in the course of the negotiations, which probably means that Russia is intent upon extorting yet further concessions from the weakness of the English Cabinet. It is known that all the Russian demands with regard to a new frontier have been conceded. Possibly the English Ministry has sought for renewed assurances from Russia as to the future, and Russia has not improbably refused to enter into any engagements in respect to Afghanistan. But trifling obstacles of this kind are not likely to impede the resolution of Mr. GLADSTONE and his colleagues to arrive at a pacific settlement at any price. The surrender that has been accomplished, has naturally created on the Continent unanimous expressions of derision. Public opinion throughout Europe regards the Russian victory as absolute and complete. European opinion, however, is not likely to fall into the blunder of making the English people responsible for the action of the disreputable English Government. In Asia and in Africa it is to be feared that more serious dangers and more far-reaching consequences are likely to result from the pusillanimity of Mr. GLADSTONE'S Ministry. English prestige has received a shock from which it will not lightly recover.

Lord HARTINGTON discharged in his usual stolid fashion the shameful task of announcing the resolution at which the Government has arrived to absolutely abandon the Soudan. For the lives that have been lost, and for the treasure that has been squandered, all intention of obtaining any compensating advantages is cynically surrendered. The campaign against OSMAN DIGNA of this year is to end as the campaign ended last year, and the country and the friendly tribes will once more be left to their fate. The expedition to Khartoum is definitely abandoned, and Lord WOLSELEY finds that he in his turn is thrown over by the Government, and that nothing is left for him but to "repair to the metropolis." It is possible that the Egyptian Government will protest against yielding up the province of Dongola to anarchy, and it is not improbable that the protest will be supported by one, if not more, of the European Powers. It appears to be hoped that Italy will proceed to occupy Souakim, but the advantages that Italy has reaped from the presence of Italian troops at Massowah are, perhaps, not sufficiently marked to lead the Italian Ministry to proceed further with the policy of adventure on the Red Sea coast. No more pitiable record of purposeless slaughter is to be found in modern history than that of the English expeditions in the Soudan. It is to be feared that the miserable chapter of bloodguilty folly and criminal vacillation is not yet ended, and that this sudden and complete relinquishment of duties solemnly undertaken is pregnant with future disaster.

It was a matter of course that the servile majority of the House of Commons should once more vindicate by its vote the policy of shame and slaughter that was assailed by Lord GEORGE HAMILTON'S resolution on Monday last. The admirable speech in which Lord GEORGE HAMILTON held up to public contempt the conduct of the Ministry, both in relation to the Afghan question and in regard to the question of the Soudan, remained practically unanswered. But the Government none the less achieved the rejection of the vote of no confidence by a majority of 30. It is a Pyrrhic victory. And a succession of similar triumphs in Parliament is likely to be but the prelude to a crushing defeat at the polls. The attempt to brand the Opposition with a desire for war, which characterised the speeches of apologies delivered from the Ministerial benches, is exceptionally insolent in its dishonesty. The war scare was absolutely the creation of the Ministry and of their organs in the Press. The English people were assured that the Empire was confronted by imminent and serious danger. Night after night in Parliament, morning after morning in the Radical Press, public opinion was stirred up by speeches and statements of bellicose suggestion and by articles of warlike fervour. The vast military preparations that were made served to confirm the impression that in the opinion of the Ministry no course was left open but to secure the abandonment of Russian pretensions either by diplomacy or by war. Under these circumstances the Tory party acted with traditional patriotism, and gave to the Ministry its hearty support. Suddenly it is announced that the Radical Ministry has yielded all that Russia demands, and that peace is assured. And then because the Tory party protests, and seeks for explanations, it is taunted with being a war party. Taunts of this kind are not likely to satisfy the English taxpayer, anxious to know why he is saddled with an expenditure of 100 millions for the current year.

The interest in domestic affairs has recently been completely overshadowed by the critical condition of English relations with Russia, and by the melancholy position in which the Egyptian policy of the Ministry has placed the Empire. In the temporary calm that succeeds the capitulation to Russia and the abandonment of the Soudan some attention is likely to be devoted to internal questions. The Redistribution Bill has passed through the Lower House with but little change. Mr. RAIKES has succeeded in modifying some of the more clumsy novelties in the nomenclature of constituencies with which we were threatened. But in more important respects the Bill remains practically unchanged. It is not probable that the House of Lords will effect any serious alterations in its provisions. The remainder of the Session in the Lower House is likely to be sufficiently occupied with the consideration of the Budget and the Crimes Act. The Budget has been received with so much popular disfavour that it is not improbable that the CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER will prefer to abandon some of his proposals rather than battle with the storm of popular discontent which they have evoked. The discussions in the Cabinet on the renewal of the Crimes Act have resulted, as we presumed would be the case, in a compromise. Some of the more important provisions of the existing law will be abandoned in order that the forces of disorder and lawlessness may be enabled to carry on the war against society with more vigour and success. The comparative calm that Ireland has recently enjoyed is to be jeopardised in order that the Irish vote may be secured for the Radical party at the General Election. The Irish leaders are certain not to rest satisfied with the important concessions made to them, and will, of course, stoutly contest the measure that is about to be introduced with the view of gaining still more substantial immunities for crime. The latter part of the Session is not likely to be distinguished by the tranquillity that has thus far marked the proceedings of Parliament.

THE TRUCE WITH DISGRACE.

The present House of Commons has probably fallen as low as it is possible for even it to fall. It has fathomed the abyss of degradation into which it has been steadily sinking for some years past. No more contemptible spectacle, or one more calculated to arouse the wrath of any nation that was still possessed of a shred of self-respect, has been witnessed within living memory than that presented now by the once proud and independent House of Commons. The cringing and creeping servility of the Caucus-ridden Radical majority to the men now in power is really too sickening to contemplate with patience. Indeed, it is difficult to realise the depth of an infamy that is content to condone the misdeeds of a Ministry steeped in shame and covered with odium. The admirably outspoken terms in which Mr. ALFRED AUSTIN has just declined the highly questionable honour of becoming a candidate for a seat in this poor and mean-spirited assembly are by no means too severe for the occasion that has evoked so just and so well-timed a protest. It is, in fact, paying Mr. GLADSTONE an undeserved compliment to attribute the present situation of the country entirely to his evil genius. He is, as Mr. AUSTIN says, but the figure-head of a rotten and worthless vessel. The craven poltroonery that is content to barter away the safety and welfare of the Empire for the sake of maintaining the Party of Revolution in power is really answerable for the evils from which the country is now suffering. The present Radical House of Commons has reached a stage at which it positively sticks at nothing to gain its ends. No national misfortune, however humiliating—no negligence on the part of the Ministry, however criminal—no deeds of turpitude, however dark—can avail to arouse the seared consciences or brace the shattered nerves of this Parliament of Cowardice to overthrow a Government which is as despised and laughed at by foreigners as it is detested and loathed by Englishmen. We do not believe that in any House of Commons that ever existed could such crimes as the wanton and wicked butcheries again and again perpetrated in the Soudan, the base betrayal of GORDON, the cold-blooded desertion of our allies, the grovelling submission to Russia, the lavish and purposeless squandering of the national treasure, the neglect of the national defences—with the rest of the accumulated infamy of the last five years—have been suffered to go unpunished. The thing would have been impossible, just as it would have been equally impossible for any former House of Commons to have tolerated within its walls the disgusting exhibition of Irish vulgarity and disloyalty which the present House of Commons, to its everlasting shame, permitted two evenings ago.

The Opposition were reminded during the discussion on Lord GEORGE HAMILTON'S Amendment that they were criticising a situation as to which they still lacked information. Such a contention involves the self-condemnation of those who employ it. If Parliament is deprived of the information necessary to form a just estimate of the position, then Ministers—above all, such Ministers as these; men more than suspected of an endeavour to juggle with the national expenditure—have simply no claim whatever to ask for a grant of public money. Lord GEORGE HAMILTON'S Amendment was, in fact, a demand for more information. Enough, however, was already known

s to the policy of the Government to warrant the severe strictures of the Opposition critics. That the Goverment had simply no case at all was even more evident from the significant silence of their supporters than it was from the poverty of their own speeches. Mr. GLADSTONE professed to rely on former precedents—to appeal to what he called "the old Parliamen-"tary practice" of passing military Votes of Credit demanded under military necessity, and of reserving until another opportunity the right of questioning the proceedings of the Government. In the first place, the PRIME MINISTER is the very last man who can claim a right to appeal to the "old Parliamentary "practice" which he and his colleagues have done all in their power to break down and to discredit. And, next, we shall retort that it is a thing wholly alien either to "old Parlia-"mentary practice," or to a consideration of ordinary decency, that a Ministry should ask for a Vote of Credit at the very moment when they are negotiating a disgraceful surrender. Mr. GLADSTONE deprecated the "mixing up of two questions — one of "them the goodness or badness of the "proceedings of HER MAJESTY'S Government; "the other of them the willingness of the "House of Commons to vote Supply." That, we grant, would have been a reasonable plea enough in the old days, when men of all political parties alike, whatever their differences of opinion, trusted each other to maintain at a crisis the safety, honour, and welfare of the QUEEN and the country. But the point of our whole contention is that those days are gone by; that the Radical Government and its miserable accomplices are traitors to both QUEEN and country; that they are not to be trusted for an hour to preserve the honour or security of England; and that it is a matter of paramount necessity to hurl them from office by any and every means that may be available. Lord GEORGE HAMILTON, in a speech that has immensely added to his already high reputation, put the case admirably when he said that the Opposition did not wish to refuse any supplies necessary for the defence of the Empire, but that they believed that "no supplies which the House of Commons "can vote will be sufficient for the defence of "the Empire so long as the present Govern-"ment have the handling of affairs."

The Head of the Government was ill-advised enough to taunt the Opposition with having consented a week previously to vote the money asked for, and with having since shifted their position. For ourselves we have always held and declared that the Opposition would have done well to resist the Vote of Credit from the outset. But Lord GEORGE HAMILTON'S reply to Mr. GLADSTONE was crushing. He charged the PRIME MINISTER with having in the meanwhile abandoned the attitude on which he originally obtained the vote of eleven millions, and with having condoned a deliberate infraction of the Sacred Covenant of which he had before spoken in such solemn terms. It is very clear that the Government have resorted to a trick as mean and as petty as that of any common swindler. They have simply obtained pecuniary grants under false pretences. The campaign in the Soudan has cost millions upon millions of money—all to no purpose; and the men who have thus squandered the resources of the nation are afraid to tell the nation how the money has been spent. They have therefore had recourse to the desperate expedient of making a heavy call for Supply in connection with the Afghan difficulty, insisting at the same time on combining in the same Vote the money demanded for the Soudan operations. The motive is transparent. They hope by an ingenious piece of jugglery to apply the money voted for one purpose to pay for the expenses already contracted in connection with the other. But, in order to carry out this scheme, it was necessary to get up a great scare, to assume a bold attitude, and to deliver a grand oration about the Sacred Covenant. They well knew all the time that the oration aforesaid was the merest make-believe; and the one advantage arising from the debate of last Monday is that the nation now knows it too.

THE REDISTRIBUTION BILL.

The Redistribution Bill has now passed all its stages in the Chamber whose bases it will so largely modify, and has entered on its course through that other Assembly to whose action is largely due that compromise between parties which secured its early introduction and its comparatively peaceful progress. The most recent discussions in the House of Commons have related to points of no very wide interest. The naming of the new divisions of counties might afford a sentimental grievance or a sentimental satisfaction to the inhabitants of localities whose names were or were not given to them. They were hardly matters of national concern. Some little antagonism was stirred up by the question whether the limited number of undergraduates of Universities who are qualified by age as well as occupation should be admitted to the franchise. The discussion gave Professor ROGERS, whose utterances are always amusing, but as often as not appear hardly serious, the opportunity of fastening upon the undergraduates the appellation of "political gipsies."

It was hardly likely that an election which could scarcely occur more than once during an undergraduate's University career, and could only by one chance out of several occur when he was of age, would either add much to the distractions which may interfere with University studies, or to the political interest which exists among a large class of undergraduates whether they possess the privilege of a vote or not. For reasons not altogether clear, however, the House of Commons specially excluded them from a provision which otherwise would have given the borough votes to them as well as to their seniors.

A second reading of the Bill in the House of Lords last night naturally carried back our recollections to the treatment by the Upper Chamber of the Bill of 1867. The House of Lords then introduced, no doubt on a small scale merely as an experiment, that principle of minority representation which it is the effect of the present Bill to take away. The amendment introducing that principle was carried against the leaders of the Conservative party then commanding a majority in the House, on the motion of a private member, and without the united support of the leaders of the Liberal Opposition. Now it is by an agreement between the leaders of both parties that the present measure is presented. By the new Bill the three-cornered constituencies created by the Lords' amendment in 1867 are to disappear. The system of single seats, which is now so generally though not universally adopted, is supposed in some degree to effect the same object. As we have often argued, it can only do so in an imperfect manner. Very small but concentrated minorities may acquire more than their share of representation by being predominant in some one district of a town or corner of a county, while more widely diffused though more numerous minorities may not be majorities in any one locality. The majority, except here and there in the wealthy quarters of towns, must be of one social class—that of the small householder living on wages. The only reliance for the representation of any other class must be on that local separation of the rich and poor in large towns, which, in many points of view, is justly deprecated. It is, however, scarcely to be expected that any amendment from an unofficial quarter on behalf of minority representation can alter that which has now received the stamp of approbation from the highest quarters on both sides. It will be felt, too, that it could not in any case meet with the acceptance which Lord CAIRNS' amendment received in 1867. Liberals are unhappily determined to do nothing that may shake their monopoly of power in the urban districts where they are strong. Conservatives, guided too much by an experience under the present system which is of little value as regards the prospect under an altered franchise, look with disfavour on the effect of minority representation in counties. Under the Bill of 1867, it has no doubt often enabled moderate Liberals to win a third seat in a county with three members. We hope it will not be found under household suffrage that, without such provision, the upper and middle-class in many rural districts will be ovewhelmed by the vote of the labourer to whichever party he may for the moment adhere.

It may be assured, therefore, that this great Constitutional change will be accepted without any modification of principle. It will be probably received by the House, as by the Conservative leaders, not as the best that could be devised, but the best which circumstances make possible. There is no Constitutional practice which would prevent the House of Lords from dealing by way of amendment with any of the arrangements relating to the distribution of members among new constituencies. In 1867 several amendments of importance were moved in the House of Lords on this and other matters contained in the Bill, though most of them were defeated, and only one of importance, that relating to "three-"cornered" constituencies was accepted in the House of Commons. But under the circumstances now existing any such amendments, in whatever direction, could only be made by way of protest, and their discussion would have a character of unreality.

Some of the districts whose appellations have been settled by the House of Commons in a manner unsatisfactory to a portion of the electors may have the battle fought over again in the Upper House. To some persons, too, the whole system of county divisions named after towns within them whether disfranchised boroughs or otherwise is objectionable. It seems to destroy the difference between county and borough constituencies, and so obliterate a remaining landmark of the accustomed order of things. They would wish to find a purely geographical name for every new division. Since, however, the assimilation of the franchise has been adopted, this may seem a contention for a shadow where the substance is already gone. County towns and other ancient boroughs which lose their separate representation may claim some sympathy from those who in deference to past traditions desire to retain their names as distinguishing the divisions of the county to which they belong. And several places which ceased to be boroughs returning members at the first Reform Bill, but whose Parliamentary history was identified with the names of many who did them honour, may thus in another form emerge from the oblivion to which they had been condemned. The alternative geographical names which the House of Commons has agreed to retain may satisfy those who prefer them. But we imagine that boundaries have sometimes been so arranged, at the wish of the inhabitants, to put in their proper place the towns which give their names to divisions. To interfere at the last moment with the arrangements now adopted might cause inconvenience and confusion.

The Bill when it passes into law will, unlike its predecessors, be one of which neither party in the State will bear the responsibility exclusively, either for praise or blame. The Reform Bill of 1832, except as regards the "CHANDOS clause," was distinctly the work of the Whig party, and represented a Whig triumph. The Bill of 1867, though much modified, no doubt, by the power of the Liberal Opposition, was one for which the Conservative Ministry were responsible, and which remains identified with the names of Lord BEACONSFIELD and the late Lord DERBY. The present Bills, at least as regards that which has not yet become law, are not wholly to be claimed by the Ministry who have introduced them. The Franchise Bill was allowed to pass only on condition of the introduction of a Redistribution Bill which both parties could accept, and the precise share of either party in the framing of any of its provisions is and will remain a secret.

With the settlement of this question the legislative work of the existing Parliament is done. It has still to carry out the financial arrangements of the year. But as regards any other matter open to contest and controversy, it scarcely possesses the authority to speak. It represents constituencies which, either as to franchise or as to area, are now things of the past—counties whose voters in future will form a minority of county constituencies, and towns whose share of power is on the principles which in future are to prevail utterly disproportionate. There is a sort of irony attending such an election as that about to take place in a great Irish county, where a Member will be returned for the short remnant of the present Parliament on the old franchise, and by the undivided county, who will, of course, if he desires to sit in Parliament after the present year, have to seek re-election under wholly changed conditions. The career of the last House of Commons largely representing the middle classes of rural districts and the smaller towns of England, is practically closed. The political questions of the future, including a judgment to be pronounced on the career of the present Ministry, must rest with the new electors and with new constituencies, whose disposition is in a great degree a matter of uncertain conjecture. It is to be hoped that, as many of the electors will now come fresh into political life, and as yet unpledged to party, they will not endorse the disposition of the majority of the present representative Chamber to ratify every error and inconsistency, however disastrous, into which a Liberal Government may have fallen.

THE SOUTH AFRICAN CHURCH.

The special gift which the present Archbishop of CANTERBURY appears to enjoy as a wise arbiter in disputes has twice recently been put to a severe test, and on each occasion the policy of referring a difference of opinion to the judgment of so well qualified a counsellor has been more than justified. In the controversy about the rebuilding of the tower of Peterborough Cathedral, the party against whom his Grace gave his verdict has acquiesced in it without so much as a syllable of dissent from any quarter. It remains to be seen whether, as we sincerely trust will be the case, the ARCHBISHOP'S counsel on the position of the South African Church will be received with a similar unanimity. But whatever may be the result of these labours for peace, there can be no doubt that his Grace has won the universal confidence of Churchmen by the ready tact, discretion, and judgment which have marked his decisions. In these days, when a weak dread of taking up a definite position masquerades as "judicious-"ness," and an utter want of definite principle passes for "moderation," it is no small thing for the English Church that the foremost among her Rulers should show himself fully able to combine firmness with conciliation. In replying to the petition addressed to him by certain of the clergy and laity in South Africa, the ARCHBISHOP speaks unhesitatingly and with no uncertain sound on the question submitted to him. Yet, at the same time, he shows that he possesses the rare power of placing himself at the point of view of those from whom he is compelled to differ. His advice is marked by so much gentle reasonableness and sound sense, that it seems almost impossible that it should not prevail with those to whom it is addressed. As the ARCHBISHOP reminds the memorialists, the terms in which they have addressed him imply that they are prepared, as far as possible, to act on his judgment.

We need do no more than briefly recapitulate the point at issue. The Church of the Province of South Africa, which is in the eyes of the law a purely voluntary association, has, by the Third Proviso of the First Article of its Constitution, expressly repudiated the claims of the secular Courts in England to prescribe or regulate the doctrine of the South African Church. By a recent decision of the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council the existence of the Proviso in question has the effect of severing the legal connection of the South African Church with the Church of England. This decision has greatly disquieted certain Churchmen in South Africa, whose sources of alarm are twofold. First, they fear that difficulties will arise concerning the tenure of Church property, especially of those parish churches secured by law to the use of the Church of England. Their next cause of apprehension is the prospect of a severance of their spiritual connection with the Mother Church. Hence the present agitation for repealing the Proviso. Having failed to persuade either the Provincial Synod of 1883 or the Diocesan Synod of 1884 to consent to the repeal of the Proviso, the objectors have since invoked the counsel of the Archbishop of CANTERBURY, whose reply has just been published. There is one point in his GRACE'S answer which might possibly at first sight, and without due explanation, be open to misconception. The ARCHBISHOP expresses his opinion that it would be better if the Proviso in question did not form part of the Constitution of the South African Church. For ourselves, we have always advocated the retention of the Proviso. But it is extremely important to note the grounds of Dr. BENSON'S opinion. The ARCHBISHOP holds the Proviso to be both superfluous and inoperative. It is, he thinks, superfluous because, since the South African Church is a voluntary association, Church causes arising in the colony "cannot find their way into the Eccle-"siastical Courts of England," and therefore no opportunity can ever arise for the secular Courts to lay claim to prescribe the doctrines of the South African Church. The Proviso is, he believes, inoperative, because "no provision or arrangement can by any "possibility exclude colonial Church causes "from the civil Courts." Every religious corporation, from Roman Catholics to Jews, is liable to have questions of contract decided by the civil Courts of the Realm; and a proviso which "wears an appearance" of preventing this, in the case of the South African Church, "may thus have a certain misleading aspect." To reasoning of this kind there might be urged one possible objection. It might be contended that the Church of England is liable to have new dogmas imposed upon her by the Privy Council, and that the existence of this possibility is a source of danger to any Colonial Church which binds itself to accept the doctrinal standards applicable to the Church at home. But we can only infer from the whole tenour of the ARCHBISHOP'S observations, and especially from his declaration that the Proviso "exhibits a spirit of zeal for true doctrine "and discipline," that he wholly repudiates the claim of any secular Court to foist a new standard of belief upon the Church of England,

That is a position which we rejoice to see so fearlessly taken up by the Primate of All England.

The idea that the recent decision of the Privy Council tends to sever the spiritual connection between the Churches need not long occupy our attention. It is almost too grotesque for serious treatment, though the Archbishop, with commendable gentleness and patience, is at the pains to refute it at some length. He does not fail to point out to the memorialists that to form a new Episcopal sect in South Africa, separate from the existing Church, would only be to set up "a secondary "voluntary association, not united any more "closely with the Church at home, but, on "the contrary, dissevered from the Bishop "whom the Church of England recognises and "summons to her Conferences in England." As a remedy for the difficulty relating to the tenure of Church property, the Archbishop recommends resort to the Colonial Legislature for a declaratory Act in reference to the special trust-deeds of certain properties. The memorialists had, indeed, previously urged that "no settlement of these difficulties can "be obtained from the Colonial Legislature "under the existing disquietude and want of "agreement among Churchmen." But Dr. Benson aptly rejoins that colonial Churchmen should promote union among themselves, and that this can only be done in one way—by the submission of all to the constituted government of the Church of South Africa, the Diocesan and Provincial Synods. "If "government is to subsist at all, minorities, "however able, however respected, and "however numerous, must submit themselves to the majority." On the whole, the Archbishop counsels a postponement of further considera ion of the Proviso, and an acceptance without further discussion of the dec sion of the two Synods. "If, in the "course of five, or even of ten, years, any of "the anticipated mischiefs be found to have in "practice arisen from its existence, all parties "will be willing that the question should be "then reopened by authority." That this admirable counsel will be frankly accepted by all loyal Churchmen in South Africa, we hope and believe. The small Colensoite minority, who, in the interests of Erastianism, have hitherto co-operated with the party represented by the memorialists, may probably prove irreconcileable. But the clergy and laity whose leaders are Archdeacons Badnall and Fogo are men of a different stamp; and it can scarcely be doubted that they will willingly and cheerfully abide by a decision which they have themselves invoked. There certainly ought to be no difficulty in securing to the South African Church "those true relations to the "Church of England which, the Archbishop "is persuaded, it is quite possible for unestablished Churches to hold towards the Mother "Church as by law established; its government by the same laws to the full extent to "which they are applicable; and its administration by the same rule of discipline in all "spiritual and essential particulars."

MR. LOWELL ON COLERIDGE.

The address given by the departing American Minister on unveiling the bust of Coleridge which American enthusiasm has placed in Poets' Corner was in every sense worthy of the occasion. Perhaps it is higher praise to say that it was worthy of the speaker. He felt inspired by the happy coincidence that this memorial of one who, as he said, if not a great poet and a great teacher, had in him the almost over-abundant materials of each character, was the gift of one of he speaker's countrymen, the late Rev. Dr. Mercer, of Newport, Rhode Island. The tribute paid to the great spiritual thinker was not the tardy act of Englishmen, but an expression of the pious devotion of an American divine. The donor could not have been better represented than by one who is greatly and justly honoured both in England and in the great Republic beyond the ocean, and justly honoured, too, in the wider republic of letters. That representative delivered amid respectful silence a studied harangue which seems to recall something of the speech of Pericles, the son of Xanthippus, over the graves of his countrymen at Athens. There was something of the ring of the famous words that commemorated those who had planted in all countries deathless memorials of weal and woe. "Of such illustrious men the "whole earth is the sepulchre, and this is "shown not only by the legend on a monu"ment in their own land, but by an un"written memorial in a land to which they "belonged not, which lives in each breast in "the spirit rather than in the letter." It is an echo of this cosmopolitan feeling which we seem to trace in Mr. Lowell's eloquent words. This bust of Samuel Taylor Coleridge "adds a fresh proof, if any were needed, "that not all the waters of that ocean which "divides but cannot divorce them can wash "out of the consciousness of either nation the "feeling that we hold our intellectual property "in common, that we own allegiance to the "same moral and literary traditions, and that "the fame of those who have shed lustre on "our race, as it is an undivided inheritance, "so it imposes an equal debt of gratitude, an "equal responsibility on the two great branches "of it." After referring to the two occasions when he had already spoken in the Abbey—once on his friend Arthur Stanley, the second time on his friend Henry Longfellow—the speaker told his hearers how half a century ago he became the possessor of an American reprint of an edition of Coleridge, Shelley, and Keats in a single volume. It was a pirated book, but Mr. Lowell may well trust that he will be pardoned for the delight he had in it, and he takes comfort from the thought that there must be many a Scottish minister and laird now in heaven who liked their claret none the less that it had paid no tribute to the House of Hanover. In his review of Coleridge's work the orator naturally turned to the literary rather than to the metaphysical achievements of his hero. In the latter region what is perhaps most striking is the partiality the great thinker so often betrays for clouds—his predilection for "making the "shifting clouds seem what you please,' or "a traveller go from mount to mount through "cloudland, gorgeous land." But what, in the sphere of criticism and literary action, constitutes his great power, as it is certainly his great charm, is, in Mr. Lowell's eyes, the perpetual presence of imagination, as constant a quality with him as fancy with Calderon. This it was which gave him the power to write, in *Wallenstein*, the most original translation in the English language. Johnson might modestly say, when he turned Pope's *Messiah* into Latin, that he was "ex alieno ingenio poeta, ex suo "tantum versificator." But Coleridge goes further. He reproduces poetry as poetry, and shows genius as genius, patent even in the march of his verse.

Of Coleridge as a poet, Scott's verdict will probably be the verdict of posterity. "No man has all the resources of poetry in "such profusion. His fancy and diction "would long ago have placed him above all "his contemporaries had they been under the "direction of a sound judgment and a steady "will." In him Mr. Lowell sees the most striking example in all literature of a great genius given in trust to a nerveless will and a titful purpose. His judgment, however, so far from being absent, grew to be there in excess. "His critical sense rose like a forbidding "apparition in the path of his poetic production." He was like the military engineer who knew so well how a bridge should be built that he could never build one. Despite this hypercriticism, the spokesman of America thinks that he has left "some of the most "poetical poetry in the language; and one "poem, the *Ancient Mariner*, not only un"paralleled, but unapproached in its kind, and "that kind of the rarest. It is marvellous in "its mastery over delightfully fortuitous in"consequence, that is the adamantine logic of "dreamland." And he never falls into the error of most descriptive poets, he never confuses us with multiplicity of detail. In the music of his diction "the most decrepit vocable "in the language throws away its crutches "to dance and sing at his piping." In his prose, where his genius is allowed to run free and full, the style, as he himself said of Pascal, "is a garment of light." It seems, to quote Mr. Lowell once more, "the very beatitude of "artless simplicity, and is the most finished "production of art. I know nothing so per"fect in its kind since Dante."

On Coleridge as a man Mr. Lowell pointedly refrained from touching; perhaps the picture of him which will live longest is that which Carlyle has painted in his *John Sterling*. The strongest evidence of his erratic frailty is the strange episode in his life when he enlisted, disguising his *forme* (S.T.C.) under the pseudonym of "Silas Titus Comberback," as a private in the 15th Light Dragoons, and was discovered by having written on the white wall of the stables at Reading a quotation from Boethius: "Eheu! quam infortunii miserrimum est fuisse felicem." In his later years we know him from Carlyle's unsparing pen. Every one has read how he sate on the brow of Highgate-hill, looking down on London and its smoke-tumult, like a sage escaped from the inanity of life's battle, attracting towards him the thoughts of innumerable brave souls still engaged there. And everyone remembers, what is more, Hazlitt's estimate of his eloquence:—"Excellent talker, very—if you let him start "from no premises and come to no con"clusion." Carlyle's memory of him was of a hazy infinitude of Kantean transcendentalism, with its "sum-m-mjects" and "om-m-mjects." But our grandchildren will not be content with, though they may smile at, this caricature of Coleridge. They will prefer to think with Mr. Lowell, that even in the dilapidation of his powers, due chiefly perhaps to his own unthrifty management of them,

> He was the ruins of the noblest man
> That ever lived in the tide of time.

Whatever his faults, whatever his failings, and they were many, all that he wrote is stamped with the mark of genius. There was nothing he touched that he did not adorn, and now at last he is justly honoured by no stranger hands in the mausoleum of England.

A characteristic effusion of the Bishop of Manchester on the subject of the Reserved Sacrament has appeared in the columns of a contemporary. After remarking that St. Paul in the Epistle to the Colossians combats "a speculative ceremonialised Gnosticism," the Bishop proceeds to offer the extraordinary observations which we print below:—"The speculative Gnosis of to-day busies itself largely with the theory of an objectively localised presence of Christ's Body and Blood in the 'sacrament of the altar,' and this theory it endeavours to impress not only on the mind, but on the senses, by every ceremonial device that it can employ. The latest novelty of practice that is recommended by those who hold this doctrine is the so-called 'reservation of the sacrament;' and my 'connection,' therefore, of this practice with the 'speculative ceremonialised Gnosticism,' to which I referred, is not so very far to seek. What is likely to be the development of the new practice, I said in my sermon, is only too obvious. The 'sacrament'—I know not whether in both kinds or in one only—will be kept in a 'tabernacle,' and before long, 'exposed' in a 'monstrance;' a lamp will be continually burning before it, and the devotions of worshippers will be directed to it. And, under the plausible pretext that we are thus providing for the necessities of the sick, we shall be moving one step nearer to the full development of the Mass." It is scarcely necessary to offer any reply to a controversialist who talks of a "localised" presence; who compares the Catholic Faith and Ceremonial of the Most Holy Eucharist to the heresy and practices of Gnosticism; who places the word Sacrament in inverted commas; and who represents the primitive and Catholic custom of Reservation as "the latest novelty." Nor is it perhaps of the least use to remind him that the First Prayer-Book of Edward the Sixth styled the Holy Communion "the Mass," and that our present Prayer-Book vouches for the orthodoxy of its predecessor of 1549. It was stated some months ago that Dr. Fraser was of opinion that the time had come for him to retire from the See of Manchester. That is a conviction which we, in common with many Churchmen, entirely share. The Church can well afford to dispense with a prelate who never loses an opportunity for airing his mischievous Radical and Latitudinarian crotchets.

The controversy on "The Revised Version" still rages in the correspondence columns of the *Guardian*. Mr. Alfred Plummer returns to the charge, but chiefly repeats what he said before, pointing out (what nobody ever denied) that Dr. Scrivener is not entirely at one with the Dean of Chichester as to the depravity of the two chief MSS. on which the Revised Greek text of the New Testament is based. Mr. Plummer is further of opinion that Dr. Sanday's sketchy articles in the *Expositor* of November, 1881, and the *Contemporary Review* for December, 1881, together with a singularly weak and inconclusive pamphlet published by two of the Revisers in 1882, are a sufficient reply to the strictures of Mr. Burgon, Dr. Scrivener, and Canon Cooke. But a really (though unintentionally) amusing letter is one from a Mr. A. R. Shilleto, who writes from Cambridge. This gentleman innocently assures us that the Revised Text is substantially a collation of—by way of all brand-new piece of information—the three oldest MSS. of the Greek Testament; that these are "certainly the three best MSS. of the Greek Testament in existence;" that they "wonderfully agree in the main;" and that the discovery of the Sinaitic codex "naturally gave a great impetus to textual criticism." After this we trust that the revered Dean of Chichester, who has probably collated more MSS. of the Greek Testament than any other living scholar, will receive with due submission the decidedly "childlike and bland" suggestion that he should commence to collate, on the margin of a Greek Testament, the three MSS. alluded to. We shall not feel any surprise to find Mr. Shilleto recommending Dr. Stubbs and Professor Freeman to study *Little Arthur's History of England;* or Professor Huxley to peruse an elementary school-book on Physics; or Mr. Gladstone to read the works of Homer, with the aid of a translation.

Reviews.

THE TWO MOZLEYS.*

These works are as different as chalk from cheese. The Mozleys, men and women, are known for a remarkably intellectual family. The late eminent publisher, if the necessity of carrying on the business had not obliged him to sacrifice his early aspirations, would doubtless have earned laurels by writing books instead of riches by printing and selling them. Of the two Oxonians who now claim our attention the elder is but too well known for "Reminiscences" of a great movement which he never grasped, and of personal incidents which he is unable to recall with accuracy. The general verdict will be confirmed by the feeble apologies of the present work. Frequent misspelling of familiar names—mistakes of one person and place for another, the Duke of Portland for the Duke of Rutland, Fredericton for Newfoundland, John W. Bowden, the author of *The Life of Hildebrand*, for Henry Boden, an imaginary biographer of Gregory the Great; the killing of his bosom friend, Palmer, who was actually living in the same county with himself, and now comes forward to contradict his statements—these are not to be laughed away as "tricks of memory," or left to the reader as "conflicting Recollections." The man who can feel "gratified," as well as surprised, to hear from Dr. Pusey that the famous Sermon on Sin after Baptism (which Mozley confessed he never *read*) was never published—that the explanatory tract was never written—and that Bishop Wilberforce's "public and energetic protest" was never made—must be not only deficient in memory, but can have but little sense of what constitutes the value of "Reminiscences." A better apology is suggested by the injuries his head sustained in childhood, and of which he tells us he still bears the marks. Deep questions of philosophy or theology are manifestly beyond his depth—his brain is not equal to the strain. He is an enthusiast on Church architecture, clever and crotchety in ordinary affairs, with a good opinion of himself, and that clear remembrance of trivialities in early life, which is either the charm or the bore of advanced age. Some of these Reminiscences are undoubtedly interesting. One of the latest (which we hope will not be contradicted) is his receiving the communion with Archbishop Tait in the chapel of Powderham Castle from a priest in a chasuble. The Archbishop explained the difference from a cope, remarking on the distinction between a private chapel and a parish church; but his Grace's "policy" on the matter was as little known to Mr. Mozley as to the Archbishop of York. From the rubbish which follows some good bits may be gleaned of the town of Gainsborough and its neighbourhood sixty years since. The Mill on the Floss is clearly a fiction, and the legend of Canute commanding the "eagre" in the Trent (instead of the sea) to retire we decline to accept. Mr. Mozley is mistaken in supposing that the windmills of his youth have disappeared in the progress of science. They are still to be seen in all the villages of Hollerness, some with a steam-engine in aid, but the great majority with nothing more than the time-honoured sails. We can assure him, also, that a boiled leg of pork, spare-rib, and even black puddings, are not obsolete. The account of Charterhouse School, under Dr. Russell, would have been better in one chapter than in ten. In the second volume Mr. Mozley loses himself in a maze of agnostic philosophy and Athanasian theology. No wonder Archbishop Tait arched his eyebrows and opened his mouth at learning that all through the Tractarian Movement, when this ardent disciple of Newman was on the point of rushing to Rome before his master, he was "under the evil possession of a philosophy "begotten by an early instructor—the father of "Mr. Herbert Spencer!" Mr. Spencer, of course, will have as little to do with him as Athanasius would. His maunderings on three different doctrines of the Trinity are sad to read.

We turn from the chalk to the cheese. In place of hazy Reminiscences, Dr. Mozley's Letters supply a clear contemporaneous record of the Oxford Movement by one who could understand and gauge it, and knew exactly where to stop. Newman himself trusted the younger brother far more than the elder, who married his sister. That lady writes:—"James is at the bottom of "everything that is going on." He had a hand in the first issue of the *Tracts* when only an undergraduate. Later on, his cool, solid judgment, his insight into character, and his resolute grasp of principle were found invaluable. Pusey and Newman both confided in him, but neither could absorb him. He foresaw Newman's secession more than a year before the fact, but though deeply pained he was nothing shaken.

What he says of himself (he wrote) is that he is borne along by an irresistible course of mind in the direction he is going—that he has withstood it, and yet it will take him. I don't know that there is anything very new in this. It is what most persons who go through religious changes describe themselves as undergoing. But it is the ground he takes; he cannot help the working of his own mind. So now he has come to a point where I cannot follow him. It is a pain, indeed, to be in a church without him. But I cannot help that. No one, of course, can prophesy the course of his own mind; but I feel at present that I could no more leave the English Church than fly. What the upshot of this is to be we have yet to see. We are in a struggle. One's spiritual home is a stormy and unsettled one; but still it is one's home. At least, it is mine.

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* *Reminiscences: Chiefly of Towns, Villages and Schools.* By the Rev. T. Mozley, M.A., formerly Fellow of Oriel, &c. In Two Vols.—London: Longmans, 1885.
Letters of the Rev. J. B. Mozley, D.D., late Canon of Christ Church and Regius Professor of Divinity in the University of Oxford. Edited by his Sister.—London: Rivingtons, 1885.

This letter, written at 32 years of age, is characteristic of the man. He was a born metaphysician. At 13 he stood for a scholarship at Corpus, and would have been elected but for his youth. As an undergraduate of Oriel he gained the prize for the English Essay, but that was his only University distinction. He came out with a third-class in the schools; failed of a Fellowship at Oriel, from the objection to two brothers at one time; failed again at Lincoln, because of his Tractarianism, but was at last more than compensated by his election at Magdalen, when two years in Orders. "It was the nearest thing in the world," but here Newman stood him in good stead. He continued to edit the *Christian Remembrancer* for ten years when he surprised his friends by publishing his works on *Predestination* and *Baptism*, the latter of which upholds the substantial justice of the Gorham judgment. In all other points he continued a High Churchman to the last. In 1856 he accepted the College living of Old Shoreham and married Dr. Ogle's daughter, whose twin sister was the wife of his dear friend Manuel Johnson, the Radcliffe Observer. He was Bampton Lecturer in 1865; in 1869 Mr. Gladstone gave him a canonry at Worcester; and in 1871 the Divinity Chair, the separation of Ewelme enabling him to retain his much-loved home at Old Shoreham. There he died 4th January, 1878, at the comparatively early age of 65.

A volume of "Letters" is not expected to say much of the works of a divine who filled our leading chair of divinity, as Canon Liddon has observed, better than any one since Bishop Lloyd. We are pleased to note that our own reviews occasionally obtained his approval. Of the University Sermons published in 1876, he writes:—

> The review in the *John Bull* is well worked up upon a solid bottom. It has done justice to the pains taken with the argument. I am glad to see a theological sermon, more especially well and accurately treated, and attention called to the argumentative points.

These "Letters," skilfully edited by a sister who is one of the most intelligent of the correspondents, constitute in fact the best of biographies. Dr. Mozley was an admirable letter-writer, a family gift acquired before the days of the penny post, and continued to the great benefit of posterity. Mr. Thomas Mozley himself is seen to much greater advantage in this volume than his own. The Professor was a critical observer of men and things: his letters abound in analysis of the people he conversed with. He was slow to speak, and even to think, whence probably his failure in the schools. But he was a keen observer, and his descriptions of the Duke of Wellington's installation as Chancellor, the Queen's reception of the University, the dinner at Apsley House, Gladstone's first election, and other incidents, are graphic and full of quiet humour. Lord Blachford, who knew him well—the "Rogers" of the Letters—describes him as possessing in youth,

> simplicity of habits, warm but undemonstrative affections, sincerity and unmistakable independence of thought, an almost stern purity of mind, carelessness of worldly adornment or distinction, and a deliberate desire to attach himself to a worthy object of life. He soon felt that thinking and writing were his vocation, and he found a career in the service of the Anglican Church. He was wholly genuine in his friendships, his arguments, his measurement of things, and in his devotion to the Church of England.

This witness is abundantly confirmed by the Letters now published. We have seldom read a more thoroughly satisfactory volume.

PHŒNICIAN ART.*

Messrs. Georges Perret and Charles Chipiez, who have already in their earlier works, *The History of Art in Ancient Egypt* and *The History of Art in Chaldæa and Assyria*, supplied most valuable contributions to the literature both of art and of history, have added yet another to those works. Their present venture, which has been admirably translated by Mr. Walter Armstrong, treats of *The History of Art in Phœnicia and its Dependencies*, and we are by no means sure that it is not of yet greater value than its predecessors as dealing with a less familiar subject. It is certainly not inferior to them in interest, or in the richness of illustration which supplies so much assistance to the art student. The two goodly volumes devoted to it are worthy of a place in every library, and the wealth of illustration which is displayed in them is in itself a sufficient recommendation to those who regard them from an artistic rather than an antiquarian standpoint, while to that more limited class of students who are inclined to look upon them as a contribution to archæology rather than to art, it is sufficient to say that there is no other work which traverses the same extent of ground, or brings together in so compact a form the art history and the archæology of Phœnicia and her dependencies. Chief among those dependencies is Cyprus, and a large, but by no means unduly large, portion of the volumes before us is devoted to this branch of their subject. It is to be regretted that England has not yet availed herself to the full of the opportunities which her possession of the island affords to antiquarian research, and we are still mainly dependent on the public-spirited energy of General de Cesnola for our knowledge of Cypriote antiquities. But much as he has done, and valuable as are the contributions which he has furnished to a deeply interesting branch of antiquarian study, we gather from the volumes before us how much there is which yet remains to do, and the gallant General's iguorance of what may be fairly called the science of topography is much to be regretted.

When we compare the volumes before us with the authors' previous works, we are at once arrested by a great distinction between their subject matter. The art of Egypt and the art of Chaldæa are alike distinguished by the fertility and originality of genius which they display, and by their influence over later developments of art. On the other hand, the Phœnicians, with whom we have here to deal, were a mere nation of imitators, who, as the neighbours and the commercial agents of the races with whom they trafficked, contributed little, if anything, which was original to art, finding it easier to borrow than to invent. The aim of the authors of the volumes before us has therefore been, in the first place, to find out what Phœnicia received from her predecessors—from Egypt, Chaldæa, and Assyria—and only in the second place to see how much she increased from her own stores the heritage thus derived. She invented no types or motives for herself, and there is no reason to suppose from anything found in the native country of the Phœnicians that they opened any new prospect whatever in any branch of art. There may seem to be a difference when we pass from the native country of Phœnician traders to the various regions in which they have made their mark; but it is most probable that in their various colonies other influences than that of the mother country are to be found at work. Take, for example, the most noteworthy from an artistic point point of view of all her colonies—we say from an artistic point of view, as from an historic point of view Carthage is without doubt the most noteworthy of her children. But it is remarkable, and may be quoted as exemplifying how complete and dire was the vengeance wreaked by conquering Rome upon her Punic rival, that little, if anything, in the way of a contribution to the history of Phœnician art has been gathered from the remains of the city of Dido. We have, therefore, to go elsewhere for those remains, and what we do not find in the mother country herself or in the most distinguished of her children is to be found in the earliest of her colonies. It is, indeed, difficult to say how much of what we there find we are to accept as pure Phœnician in the way of art. For in Cyprus we trace the influence of Greek art, not only in the sculptures in which the island is so rich, but also in the specimens of ceramics which have been there discovered. And when we pass to the industrial arts, we find that Phœnicia has a higher claim upon our attention; and, to take but one branch of those arts—glass-making, it seems clear that Phœnicia was, if not the native, at all events the adopted country of that art, and that in it the glass-maker attained the greatest perfection known to antiquity. The illustrations of his skill which are given in the volumes before us are among the most attractive of the many attractive pictures so profusely scattered through those volumes. We doubt if anything better has been done in the way of colour printing than some of the plates which reproduce for us the art manufacture as distinguished from the art of Phœnicia, whilst the art itself is represented in many very striking engravings, which render these volumes entitled to a place among the most sumptuous of their class.

The Phœnician traders, as distinguished from the earlier artists of Egypt and of Chaldæa, and from the later artists of Greece, were the great middlemen by whom the forms and motives invented in Egypt and Mesopotamia were carried to the foreign races who borrowed and improved upon them. By the term Phœnicians the authors of the present treatise mean primarily the peoples settled on the coast at the foot of Lebanon, and more closely connected than with any other race with the great Semitic race of which the Hebrews are the most illustrious representatives. They were a people of merchants and of adventurous mariners, and thus won for themselves a place in the history of art—we must own the more humble place of transmitters, rather than of originators—to which their kindred tribes who dwelt further inland could never aspire. Though but middling artists, they were great navigators and great industrials, and the historian of their art, while not overwhelmed by the difficulty of choice amid a great mass of original matter which hampers the historian of their precursors and of their successors, has yet a great mass of material at his disposal, gathered from many distant lands, into which this people of merchants and adventurous mariners carried what they had learnt, rather than what they had originated. Though Phœnicia takes up but a narrow space on the map, its influence was by no means limited to these narrow geographical limits, any more than is the influence of England, which in many respects resembles ancient Phœnicia, both as regards its lack of originality in art and by the wide range of its transmitted influence. The products not only of Phœnician workshops, but of the workshops of Egypt and Chaldæa, were carried to the utmost limits of the ancient world in Phœnician vessels, and one of the difficulties which the student of Phœnician art has to encounter is to distinguish what is really Phœnician from what is probably derived from an earlier civilisation, as well as from what has been essentially modified by the influence of a later civilisation. It is probable that the difficult task of tracing out the true Phœnician element in the various relics of the past which have been collected on the soil of undoubtedly Phœnician colonies has never been accomplished with so much skill as in the volumes before us, which claim a high place among the works of antiquarian art presented in a popular form, which are a *spécialité* of the present generation. For while the book is one which will delight the antiquarian student, it is by no means without its charm for the more general reader. The translator should not be without his share of praise for the skill with which he has rendered his original into pleasant and readable English. We cannot in the space at our disposal follow that original through all the branches of the subject of which it treats so admirably. If a larger space is given in these volumes to the discussion of the industrial arts than has been afforded in the previous volumes treating of Egypt and of Chaldæa, this is because Phœnicia was superior to her neighbours in industry, while she fell far short of them in the domain of art. Consequently the services rendered by the "race of middlemen" as they are not unfairly called, to the civilisation of Greece and Rome has met with but scant acknowledgment, and, as is here pointed out, it is partly their own fault that full justice has not been done to them in this respect. They were a nation of merchants rather than a nation of artists. But it is wonderful to consider what results in art—imitative art it is true, but still art—were produced by a race so scanty in number as the Phœnicians were even at the height of their prosperity. Evidence of these results are profusely scattered through the present work. These Eastern traders made themselves indispensable to the then half-savage races of Europe, and while their thousands of ships ploughed the Mediterranean and more distant seas, wherever Phœnician merchants settled in life or made their graves in death may be found traces of their influence. To gather up these traces has been the task imposed upon themselves by the authors of the volumes before us. It is probable that there may yet be much left to discover in the various regions to which the ships of Tarshish and her neighbours penetrated. But as far as discovery has yet gone no more complete record could be compiled than is contained in the present volumes. The wealth of illustration scattered through them would be sufficient in itself to lend attraction to a work of far inferior merit from a literary point of view. As it is, both from a literary and from an artistic point of view, we must accord a high place to this *History of Art in Phanicia and its Dependencies.*

NEW NOVELS.

*Louisa** is a novel of which it is probable that somewhat conflicting opinions will be formed. Those who look only to the skill with which Miss Macquoid has worked out her studies of character, and to the delightful sketch which she has given of the old hill city of Umbria in which he scene is mainly laid, will have nothing but praise to bestow upon it. We do not know why she has deemed it necessary to suppress the actual name of the city, for its identity with Perugia is sufficiently clear to those who have even the most casual acquaintance with the locality which she has sketched as the background of her story. But whether she has named it or not is really immaterial, when we find scattered throughout her pages so many admirable sketches of the city itself and its surroundings. She writes evidently with no small amount of local knowledge, and we linger with pleasure over her pictures, and especially over that of the Piazza del Pape, with the grand statue arrayed in Pontifical vestments which stands in the midst of the square beside the Duomo, which it has watched for three centuries. The statue is skilfully interwoven with the plot from the introductory chapter, which tells how Guiseppe Monaldi and his fair young English wife stood at its foot in the dim evening light on her first visit to her husband's home. She is the heroine of the story, and Miss Macquoid has bestowed no little pains on the development of her character. But the circumstances which attend that development are not altogether satisfactory. For the love which her husband's true-hearted devotion has not been able to kindle in her impassive soul is aroused by the visit of Francis Hobart, an English artist, whom she deems more worthy of it than her patient, tender, loving-hearted husband. He—the husband we mean, not his involuntary rival—is a delightful picture, and it is sad to see how by degrees he awakes to the consciousness that his devotion is not sufficient to satisfy the wife on whom it is so ungrudgingly lavished. Louisa, who was the daughter of a country doctor in England, has, indeed, married the Count Monaldi for position rather than love, and more from a desire to get away from her own people and her father's house than from any irresistible impulse to sacrifice them to a more ardent affection. She regards herself as a very superior person, though it is probable that the reader will not be able to share her estimate of herself. In truth, she looks down upon poor Monaldi, and by no means values his simple honest worship as it deserves to be valued. Francis Hobart is little aware of the storm of passion which he has kindled in the breast of the Contessa, and his own affections are fixed upon Monaldi's niece, Francesca. It therefore becomes Louisa's object to keep them apart; and she spares no pains to bring about a match between the young girl and a most unsuitable suitor, a withered old Professor, who has been so long wrapped up in antiquarian pursuit that he finds himself with some surprise diverted from those pursuits by his admiration for the Count Monaldi's niece. The misapprehension between Hobart and Francesca is cleverly managed, and Louisa all but succeeds in separating them for ever. But Monaldi's eyes are opened, and there is something very pathetic in his awakening from his dream of Louisa's perfection. He refuses to take part in the sacrifice of Francesca to her aunt's jealousy and to Professor Broferio. So in the end Hobart and Francesca are happily married. We are not yet in England quite educated down to an approval of a story the main interest of which turns on a married woman's regard for someone else than her husband, and the rivalry of the aunt and of the niece has an unpleasant flavour about it. An unreserved commendation of the novel is not, therefore, possible; but it has so many good points, that we the more regret the unwholesome nature of its main interest.

The *Two Loves in One Life*† of which the anonymous author of the next novel on our list has to tell us are the violent love of the heroine for a man who was not her husband, and her very qualified love for her husband himself. Some excuse may, perhaps, be made for her, when we consider the unhappy circumstances which led to her marriage, and the untoward circumstances which brought her after marriage so much into the company of the man whom she had loved, and from whom she had been parted by the treachery of a rival. But, even after making this excuse, we feel it difficult to allow that "the "natural love of an untried heart" ought so entirely to outweigh "the affection which sprang "from holy reverence for duty—from gratitude—"and from the tenderness of her womanly "nature," as it does in the case of Sybil Charlton. She dies of a broken heart because it is her lover and not her husband who perishes in the accident which is so effectively described. Such a book is certainly unwholesome; and though the author attempts to enlist our sympathies on behalf of his heroine, we must decline to allow them to be so enlisted. The book has a certain amount of literary merit, but not of any very high degree. At the same time, it would be unfair to judge it as a whole by such a passage as that which occurs in the first chapter, describing how "Mrs. Broughton's dainty "foot was poised in the air as her maid operated "upon its covering with a button-hook, when her "half-sister, Sybil Dartmouth, entered the room, a "telegram in her hand." This is an exceptionally ludicrous sentence, and the literary taste of the London Literary Society is not to be judged by it.

Doing and Undoing† is a gracefully told story, full of pathetic interest. The heroine, Bride Leslie atones nobly for the wrong which she did when, after pledging herself to Gifford Ogilvie without much consideration of what she was doing, she threw him over for Francis Stainer, whom she loved with her whole heart. She ought of course to have been off with the old love before she was on with the new, and unfortunately the old love and the new were friends, so that her double-dealing was promptly revealed. Gifford abandons his claims to her hand, and Stainer declines to avail himself of his friend's sacrifice. So between the two stools Bride falls to the ground. She devotes herself to good works, and goes to help her brother in the East end of London. When he breaks down and they have to go abroad for his health, by a strange chance they come across Gifford Ogilvie in an Italian hotel, and, under the circumstances, Bride is compelled to act as his nurse. He has been steadily going to the bad ever since she threw him over, and she deems it necessary to atone for the ruin she has wrought by endeavouring to reform him by marrying him, wrecked as he is in health and character. The experiment is not a happy one, and her undoing of the mischief she has done is by no means complete. Gifford is hopelessly irreclaimable, and little appreciates her self-sacrifice. But it is a self-sacrifice which appeases her own remorse, and we are glad that Miss Chichele has resisted the temptation of making her and Francis Stainer happy together at last, though the temptation to do so must have been very strong, when the two severed lovers meet beside the graves of her husband and his wife at San Remo. Such a termination of the story would have been far more commonplace than that which Miss Chichele has supplied in her conclusion, in which nothing is concluded.

The excellent lecture on *Old and Rare Books*, which was delivered by Mr. J. C. Woods before the Royal Institution of South Wales, and has been published by Mr. Elliot Stock, is an admirable specimen of its class. It is plain that the lecturer knows what he is lecturing about, which is not always the case, and the members of the institution for whose benefit the lecture was originally prepared may congratulate themselves on their good fortune in enlisting the services of so admirable an instructor. We are glad that Mr. Stock should have thought fit to introduce it to the notice of a yet wider circle than that for which it was originally designed.

Miss Mary Ostlere, whose waltz "Hypatia" was noticed favourably by us not long since, has published two new pieces of dance music, the "Clytie" and the "Ariadne" waltzes. Neither of these is to our mind quite equal to "Hypatia," though both are spirited and tuneful. Of the two, "Clytie" is our favourite as far as music goes, though the publisher, Mr. Pitman, has bestowed on "Ariadne" a more attractive exterior, which is by no means obscurely connected with Miss Mary Anderson, to whom this waltz like, "Hypatia," is dedicated. Each of them is, however, well marked as regards time, which is perhaps the most important feature in dance music. The composer adventures on new ground when she adds to these waltzes a "Soudanese March," which is full

* *The History of Art in Phœnicia and Its Dependencies.* From the French of Georges Perret and Charles Chipiez. Translated by Walter Armstrong. In Two Vols.—London: Chapman and Hall (Limited), 1885.

* *Louisa.* By Katharine S. Macquoid. In Three Vols.—London: R. Bentley and Son, 1885.

† *Two Loves in One Life.*—London: London Literary Society, 1885.

† *Doing and Undoing.* By Mary Chichele. In One Vol.—London: Kegan Paul and Co., 1885.

of spirit and vigour, and in it is introduced with considerable effect the army bugle-calls and the pipes of the Gordon Highlanders. We do not, however, find a scuttle movement at the end, which takes off the tone of reality. On the cover of this piece is a characteristic likeness of Lord Charles Beresford, and a very sensational illustration, borrowed from the *Graphic*, of the native manner of fighting.

DOUBLE ACROSTIC.

NEW ACROSTIC RULES.

In future, instead of the Quarterly Prize, a Prize of One Guinea will be given every month for the successful solution of the Acrostics that appear in the *John Bull*.

The present monthly competition will include the Acrostics that are given on May 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30.

At the end of the month, in case competitors tie, they will proceed to guess off the ties, being debarred from prize-winning in the fresh monthly competition so long as they are engaged in contesting the ties.

No competitor can gain more than two Monthly Prizes in the course of the year.

All solutions must be forwarded not later than the Monday week following the appearance of the Acrostic, addressed to the ACROSTIC EDITOR of the *John Bull*, 6, Whitefriars-street, Fleet-street, E.C., and signed by a pseudonym of not inordinate length.

Alternatives to the number of three are allowed.

All solutions received are acknowledged, whether correct or not.

ANSWER TO DOUBLE ACROSTIC, No. 1.
(THIRD MONTH, TENTH YEAR.)

1. P andemonia M
2. A ustri A
3. L iverpoo L
4. L ochie L

Answers have been received from Sengar, Zulus, Zyx, O.R., Neremac, G.C.H., Bice, Cymro, Whaup, Katydid, Kildale, Spero, Paddy, Etak, Hampton Courtier, Pen, Iris, Vertumnus, Chelmsford, Pupdog-wow, Quandary, Edith S., Asphodel, The Owl, L.E.L., Bertha, M.A.E.H., Roslyn, Thal, Ketha, Evelina, Pegasus, Godiva, Culverin, Land o' Nod, Kiku, Conjecture, S.O.F., Mac, Sociable, Pansy, Two Countesses, Sleepy, Peewit, Hadji, Waddles, and Noryb.

TIES FOR MARCH.—Beam, Persevere, and Todeat have all successfully solved the above Acrostic, and thus remain competing.

TIES FOR APRIL.—James Crow has failed to correctly answer this Acrostic, and Felix, having sent an accurate solution, wins the Monthly Prize. Felix is requested to forward name and address for publication.

DOUBLE ACROSTIC, No. 3.
(THIRD MONTH, TENTH YEAR.)

PROEM.

My first as ungenteel as it can be,
A useful measure in the second see;
My whole a visitor to British shores,
Whose loss society in town deplores.

1.

Not crown'd, as once, with bay, or fed with wine,
A poet worthy still of ancient line.

2.

A term, tho' oft denoting beauteous setting
In jewels, flaws or softness not forgetting.

3.

At glad Epiphany a strolling strain,
Or bowl which Saxons with "Good health!" would drain.

BRUSSELS SPROUT.

Correspondence.

THE NEW TESTAMENT REVISION.

To the Editor of the JOHN BULL.

Sir,—The translation of a crucial passage in the New Testament, Acts xv. 23, by the English Company of Revisers, calls for some notice.

It is admitted on all hands that the present "Authorised Translation" of this verse is not warranted by good authority—neither by Cod. Sinait., Vatic., Alexandr., Ephr. Syr., Beza, the Armenian Version, the Vulgate, Irenæus, nor by Origen (contr. Cels.). That the Revisers, therefore, should amend the "Authorised Version" was no more than their duty. But their method of doing so is open to the gravest exceptions.

The verse referred to contains the description of the superscription appended to the Encyclical Letter of the First Council of Jerusalem. The translation of that verse, hitherto adopted by scholars as being founded on the best MSS., runs as follows:—"The Apostles and Elders, Brethren, send greeting unto the Brethren, . . . &c." For this translation we have the authority in our own times of such scholars as the late learned Bishops Dr. C. Wordsworth of Lincoln and Dr. Jacobson of Chester, and of that master of exegesis the late Dean Alford; Constantine Tischendorf, moreover, assuring us that the text adopted by them is warranted by his MS. Sinait. and by the Cod. Vat. and Alex. (N. T., Leipsic, Tauchnitz, 1869.)

The English Company of Revisers, however, in direct opposition to such authority, and, moreover, in opposition to the recorded dissent of the American Company (Rev. N. T., p. 599), have thought fit to render the passage thus:—"The Apostles and the Elder Brethren unto the Brethren, . . . greeting, &c." And it would be exceedingly interesting to know what influences prevailed among the English Company to commend this latter translation for adoption.

(1.) Is this translation adopted on grounds of scholarship? The word πρεσβύτεροι has already occurred four times in this chapter (vv. 2, 4, 6, 22) as a substantive, and has as such necessarily been treated by the Revisers themselves; but now, on its fifth appearance, and used in the same connection as before, it is by the Revisers forthwith turned into an adjective. This certainly is somewhat surprising, and it is not easy to perceive how this translation could commend itself on the grounds of scholarship.

(2.) But if this translation was not imperatively and positively demanded on grounds of scholarship, its offence against common reason should certainly have forbidden its adoption. The conclusion it forces on the reader is this—that though the mission from Antioch was sent to the Apostles and πρεσβύτεροι only (v. 2), and that though only the Apostles and πρεσβύτεροι met for deliberation on the subjects submitted for decision (v. 6), yet that when the decrees of the Council came to be authenticated the πρεσβύτεροι were left out of the superscription, and some other persons not before specified as members of the Council were substituted in their place.

(3.) But a graver objection still against the translation of the English Revisers has to be added. In accordance with the translation hitherto commended by scholars, the superscription of the Encyclical Letter corresponds exactly with the description of its contents when they were afterwards delivered by St. Paul, Timothy, and Silas to the cities. Not so with the Revisers' translation. That is to say, according to the translation of the approved scholars before named, the Apostles and the πρεσβύτεροι superscribed the Letter, and its contents are afterwards described as the decrees "ordained by the Apostles and the πρεσβύτεροι" (Acts xvi. 4).

By the rendering adopted by the English Company of Revisers, two difficulties are introduced—(1) the πρεσβύτεροι did not superscribe the Letter, though their name afterwards appears among those who are represented as having decreed its contents; and (2), on the other hand, the "Elder Brethren" did superscribe the Letter, though their name does not afterwards appear in the description when its contents were delivered to the cities. Here are two fatal discrepancies which would seem to defy any reconciliation whatsoever.

Thus stands the case, then, as regards scholarship, reason, and the correspondence of documents; the Revisers in the latter case introducing two difficulties in reconciling the superscription at Jerusalem with the description of the contents of the Encyclical Letter as afterwards delivered.

A few words in conclusion may perhaps be pardonable. Of course, if scholarship, reason, or reconciliation of documents demanded the Revisers' novel interpretation, it would be accepted without a word of remonstrance. Should, however, this not be the case, but rather the reverse in one particular, and certainly the reverse in three others, then a subsidiary question arises. It is one respecting history, and is this:—have the English Company of Revisers any examples to produce proving that in primitive times "Elder Brethren," in plain terms Lay Elders, on any other occasion than this as now first recorded in the new Revision, were ever endowed in matters of doctrine and discipline with an authoritative voice, either at Jerusalem, Alexandria, Antioch, Ephesus, in the island of Crete, or elsewhere in the early Church, whatever modern practice in this respect may have been introduced in comparatively very recent times, and adopted, too, on authority as questionable as can well be imagined?

Yours faithfully,
JAMES WAYLAND JOYCE.

Burford Rectory, Tenbury, May 8.

ELEVEN MILLION POUNDS' WORTH OF HUMILIATION.

To the Editor of the JOHN BULL.

Sir,—Although we are to have no war, we have still to pay for our emergency Vote of Credit. This raises the question, what were the eleven millions asked for, and to what purpose are they to be applied? This, I believe, is a Cabinet secret, and *as I do not think it has yet fully leaked out*, I wish to state some inferences I have drawn regarding it, which may be challengeable, but which I think are worth offering for challenge.

That Mr. Gladstone's patriotic speech was mere acting has already been said, and this is the view I feel compelled to take, but not the view I originally took of it. If it was acting, I am one of those who was taken in by it, if I may use so profane an expression on so sacred a subject. I have long ago learned to look for two meanings in what Mr. Gladstone says—one to allay present opposition, another to harmonise with subsequent action; but on this occasion I was among those who believed that Mr. Gladstone had taken a straightforward course, and meant, for once, to adhere to it. That I do not think so now, is because the facts absolutely preclude such a belief. It now appears to me that the "patriotic" speech was a speech, I shall not say designed, but admirably adapted, to lead people to believe that Mr. Gladstone intended to do what he had no intention of doing; and that, at the same time, it was so framed, with a full knowledge of what he intended to do, that it would be found subsequently to bear an interpretation not inconsistent with it.

From Mr. Gladstone's statements, even previous to the "patriotic" speech, I understood, and I have no doubt many more were led to the same conclusion, that Mr. Gladstone's position and the position of the Government was this—that if the Government was rightly advised by its officers, as it had no reason to doubt that it was, a deliberate breach of agreement had been committed in the Russian attack on the Afghans, and that, failing evidence of such misinformation, either Russian officers or the Russian Government must be called to account for this deliberate breach. Now, it is clear that this is not a question capable of being submitted to arbitration. Whether a deed of deliberate violence has been committed and life has been unlawfully taken is a question not for arbitration, but for judicial inquiry. If this was our position in relation to Russia, then a Vote of Credit was a natural and legitimate result of that position.

Where do we stand now? First, we have agreed that the conduct of gallant officers on either side is not to be challenged; then we have submitted to arbitration, not the question whether an act of violence has been committed, but whether an agreement has been variously interpreted, and this question is to be determined in accordance with the honour of both countries. Does this afford a legitimate, or even a plausible, ground for a vote of credit? Let the withdrawn remarks on the £6,000,000 vote be witness. These remarks, I apprehend, were withdrawn not from any generous regard for the feelings of opponents, but from dire necessity, resulting from the perception "too late" of their exceeding appropriateness to the vote of £11,000,000.

Seeing that these things are so, what was the money wanted for? I can only point out certain things for which it will be exceedingly useful. The first is to get out of that horrid Soudan business, in which for the second time we shall have successfully carried out the policy of "butcher and bolt"—the only war policy in which our Government has succeeded, and which they are evidently waiting the opportunity to complete in regard to their one conquest, Egypt itself. It is no thanks to them that their last visitation of Souakim has not been so bloody as the first, but where is the smallest rag of consistency to be found between that expedition and the abandonment of the Soudan, without even a treaty to the Mahdi and his followers? The second thing that the Vote of Credit will help to accomplish is still more noteworthy. Our petty wars have depleted our army, and rightly or wrongly we have come to the conclusion that our navy is inadequate to our requirements. Now, to ask for enough money to put these things right without a great emergency would have a very bad effect in view of Liberal professions of retrenchment and denunciations of Conservative extravagance. This fortunate scare about Russian aggression has enabled the Government to do three things; firstly, to scuttle out of the Soudan without regard to consistency with their previous undertakings; secondly, to concede to Russia whatever stands in the way of, at least, a temporary agreement; thirdly, to put our armaments in a more efficient condition without increasing taxation in a time of profound tranquillity. If, therefore, the Government is not, as often before, to make political capital out of its own blunders, it must be brought to book on these questions:—

First, what was its real difference with Russia? Was it ever a question of wrong-doing, or was it always a question of words?

Secondly, is it now a question of words or of wrong-doing?

Thirdly, was the "patriotic" position abandoned because of any discovered inaccuracy in the information on which it was based?

Fourthly, was the Vote of Credit asked for to correct a misapprehension as to an agreement? If not, what was the exact purpose for which it was asked?

May 11. ROBERT SCOTT MOFFAT.

LITERARY AND OTHER NOTES.

The Rev. J. E. Rudd, rector of Covenham St. Mary, writes:—

"The early days of the ensuing month of June wear a cold, wet, and stormy aspect.

Wenn kalt und nass der Juni war,
Verdirbt er weist das ganze Jahr.

The interval between the twelfth and twenty-second will be very hot and stormy, and exceptionally stormy weather will prevail on the 27th and following days. The 4th, 14th, 16th, 25th, and 27th are likely to be the most stormy days during the month." Our esteemed correspondent adds:—

"Quand Sant Giorg el ven in Pasqua
Per el mond gh'e gran borasca.

i.e., when Easter falls on St. George's Day there will be great trouble throughout the world. Strangely enough, this happened in 1848, the year of revolutions."

As great interest is felt in the progress of Colonel Prjevalsky's explorations in Northern Tibet and his attempt to reach Lhasa, the following message from him, dated Lob Nor, March 15 (probably O. S.), and published in the *Invalide Russe*, will be read with interest:—"During the last autumn and winter we visited Eastern Zaidam as far as Lob Nor. The middle range of the Kuen Lun, hitherto unknown, has been examined with sufficient care. The ancient route leading from Khoten to China has been found and thoroughly explored. We have also discovered three enormous snow peaks, to which we have given the names of Muscovite, Columbus, and Enigmatical. The most elevated point of the first-named is Mount Kremlin, of the second Mount Djinri, and of the third the Crown of Monomachus, which are all of a higher elevation than 20,000ft. above the sea. The Tibetan plateau skirting the middle Kuen Lun has an average height of 4,000ft. No inhabitants were met with except in the Southern Zaidam. Further to the west the flora and fauna of the desert are extremely poor. In the month of December the cold was so intense that the mercury froze. We passed the month of February and the first fortnight of March at Lob Nor. We are just about to set out again, with the intention of crossing Cherchen, for the purpose of reaching Kiria, in the district of Khoten. During the three months of summer we shall traverse Northern Tibet, if the Chinese do not oppose us, and in the autumn we shall return to our own Turkestan. We are all in good health."

General Gordon's Diary, which Messrs. Kegan Paul, Trench, and Co. expect to bring out about the middle of June, will be published practically intact, only such emendations being made as were directed by General Gordon himself. The work, which is being edited by Mr. Egmont Hake, assisted by Sir Henry Gordon, will form one octavo volume, and will contain an etched portrait of the author by Mr. Llewellyn, two maps, and several woodcuts from Gordon's sketches. The appendices will form a most interesting portion of the volume, comprising, as they will, the translation of an important letter to Gordon from the Mahdi, signed with his own seal, letters from the late General Stewart, and other documents which will throw considerable light on the position of affairs in the Soudan during the last two years.

At the Osterley Park library sale on Monday, *Le Fevre Recuyell of the Historyes of Troy*, the first book printed in English, was sold. Caxton states in the epilogue to the third book that it was during the progress of this work that he learned printing. The book was put in at £200, and by bids of £10 and £20 run up to £1,820, and fell to Mr. Quaritch for that sum.

Mr. Henry Graves, of Pall-mall, who, at the request of the Duke of St. Albans, has examined the remains of the pictures at Bestwood Park, near Nottingham, where there was a serious fire last week, writes that there are twenty-five totally destroyed and six damaged:—"Among those destroyed are—Charles I. (half-length), by Jameson; Charles II., in his robes, by Sir Peter Lely; Nell Gwynne (life-size), by Gascar; Prince Rupert (full length), by Vandyke; First Duke of St. Albans, by Sir Godfrey Kneller; First Duchess of St. Albans, by Sir Godfrey Kneller; the Duke of Monmouth, by Sir Peter Lely; Charles I., when Prince of Wales, by Honthorst; the twentieth Earl of Oxford, by Sir Peter Lely; James, third Earl of Berkeley, by Sir Godfrey Kneller. The other fifteen are members of the St. Albans family of a later date, by Hudson and other painters. Several of the most interesting and valuable pictures at Bestwood escaped without injury."

At a recent meeting of the Society of Arts, held in the lower Exeter Hall, Professor Vambéry read a paper to a crowded and distinguished audience on the subject of Herat. He said that though he could not offer much that was novel, he hoped to give them some facts derived from his own observation. He passed six sad weeks in Herat, without money, sympathy, or hope of speedy relief, in a cell of a dilapidated caravansery, pondering on the importance of the city, its past and its future. On returning to Europe he found English politicians strongly inclined towards optimism, and disposed to dispute the importance of Herat. This led to his publication in 1869 of *Herat and the Central Asian Question*, in which he maintained that it was the gate of India. Herat was, in truth, a place of unusual importance, agriculturally, commercially, ethnically, and strategically. He arrived in the city during the autumn, just after a siege of three years' duration, finding it a heap of ruins; but he soon had reason to agree that the statements of ancient geographers and of the modern inhabitants were not exaggerated. The soil of Herat was of incredible fertility, and of water there was abundance. The two principal rivers were the Murghab and the Heri-rud, the Tinghibab and the Kesbefrud flowing into the latter, and the Kolari and the Kushk (which means dry, from its partly subterranean course) into the former. Such an abundance of water within a small territory was unique in Central Asia, Persia, Turkey, and Arabia, and had made it a jewel the possession of which had been coveted by every conqueror, as it was still coveted today. The great wealth of Herat explained why the Governors had, as a rule, soon been able to assert their independence, as the Shah Kamran, the Sultan Ahmed had done, and as Kuddus Khan, the appointee of the present Ameer of Afghanistan, had very nearly done. Under a European Administration Herat might develop into a veritable gold mine, now that marauding incursions from the north had been damned by the position of Russia, and that the Badghis had a chance of flourishing anew and making the district the granary of Central Asia. The varied populations settled here in the course of history furnished the best means for a conqueror to gain a firm foothold. The compact mass of Turkeydom was found to the north of the Paropamisus. Afghan elements prevailed to the south, while to the west Irandom predominated. The aboriginal population was Iranic, and had always been distinguished for its disposition to peaceful culture, and its repugnance to military service. The rest of the population was comprehended under the common appellation of Tchihar-Aimak or four tribes, a politico-ethnical expression, dating from the Timurides, the Djemshidis, on the Kushk and Murghab, the Firuzkuhis to the east, the Teimenis to the south, and the Timuris on the borders between Persia and Herat. The whole population of Herat was about one million, consisting of a race physically and mentally strong, hating the Afghans and Persians, and whose loftiest ideal had always been the independence of Herat, and who might be transformed at small expense into an excellent militia and a reliable barrier against Persia and Afghanistan. In ancient times the commerce of India and China had reached the west by passing through Herat, and even now it was an emporium for the trade between the north and the south. Every conqueror of India had marshalled his armies in Herat to prepare them for the change of temperature in the southern latitudes, and it was to the present day the traditional highway to India, in preference to the route over the Hindoo Koosh. Every conqueror of India in coming from the north had secured Merv and the Oasis on the lower course of the Murghab before proceeding to Herat, and Russia was now pursuing that identical policy. So far back as historical memory went the district of Badghis had always formed part of the province of Herat, and had never been presumed to be a part of either Merv or Meshed. Nature had herself drawn the frontier, for where Badghis ceased the sand region of the Turcoman Steppe began, and Penjdeh as well as Ak Robat were situated within the lines of the cultivated soil of the north-western offshoots of the Paropamisus. They belonged to Badghis, and were parts of the district of Herat. Herat being the "key to India" or the "gate of India," patriotic Englishmen saw in the advance of Russia to that part of Afghanistan an ever-present danger to the interests of their country. On the continent, judging the matter from a different standpoint, the majority of thoughtful Europeans still felt compelled to side with England as the country which had unfurled the banner of western culture in Asia with much greater success than Russia, which was as aggressive and warlike in Asia as England was conspicuous for her Conservatism and fondness for peace. He had no personal grudge or settled dislike of Russia and no desire to fan the flames of war, which was a disgraceful remanet of the dark ages; but Russia had reached the limit where her civilising influence in Central Asia could be useful, and ought not to be allowed to stretch her hands to the classic soil of Arian culture. The two worlds met at the Oxus and the southern line of the Turcoman Steppe, therefore the attack on Herat was an aggression on the Arian region of culture, and offensive not only to Englishmen, but to every friend of Western culture, and the forcible expression "Hands off" would be in the right place here.

Professor Vambéry last week, at Willis's Rooms, under the auspices of the Constitutional Union, gave a lecture on "England and Russia in Afghanistan." He denied that he had come to England to fan the flame of war, or that he was a Conservative agent come to work against the Liberals. He was there to raise a warning voice against the danger which was now threatening England from Russia. Tracing the progress of Russia in Central Asia, he denied that her rule had even benefited the Khargiz, while as to the Khanates the effect of her rule had been distinctly evil, and so destructive to the male Turkomans that in some parts of that country the proportion of men to women was one to seven. Dealing with the present situation, he insisted that Herat was the key to, and the gate of, India, and England ought never to allow Russia to occupy it if she desired peace in Hindostan. The possession of Penjdeh

meant the most serious evils to this country, for its possession gave her two roads to Herat. The possession of Herat meant taking Candahar whenever they required it, and then the Bolan and Khyber Passes, and the invasion of India. Drawing a sketch of the character of Russian diplomacy, which included that of a wily European and a cunning Asiatic, he said honourable British diplomists were no match for them, because they expected their antagonists to be as truthful as themselves. He denied the Russian force was as great as many people here fancied, and showed the immense superiority of the scientific weapons that they possessed over the Asiatic barbarians, in aid of the cunning and astuteness which had helped Russia in her conquests. War with Russia was inevitable sooner or later, and, in the interests of England, the sooner the better, for her goal was India. The principle of nationality did not exist in Central Asia, the Afghan was only a Mohammedan, and hated all Christians and Europeans alike; but Abdurrahman Khan had a fair conception of the political situation, and knew that it was to his interest to be in alliance with England rather than with Russia. Even amongst the people, the approach of Russia was opening their eyes; and he believed that they would, now that the Russian danger was imminent, be willing to co-operate with us in withstanding the Russian advance. His object was to introduce true European civilisation in Central Asia, and the only nations that could do the work were England and Russia, and his predilection for the former was a comparison of the work the two nations had already done in Asia. The one had introduced real civilisation into India, while the Russians, after 300 years, had only taught the Tartars to drink, to be unclean in their dress and persons, and to tell lies, though not such big lies as their teachers. He held that England ought not to go back, but to go on in her civilising path in Asia, and to do that she should defend Herat to the last. At the conclusion of the lecture the following resolution:—"That this meeting deeply regrets the apparent intention of Her Majesty's Government to abandon the position taken up by the Prime Minister in his speech of the 27th of April, which obtained the unanimous vote of the House of Commons," moved by Lord George Hamilton, was carried unanimously.

FASHION v. TASTE.

So far as women's dress is concerned exaggeration is the order of the day; and, although persons of taste can manage to avoid the eccentricities into which the multitude is prone to rush, and yet to present no singularity of appearance, these bear unfortunately but a small proportion as compared with the number who follow blindly where fashion leads, and "fool her to the top of her bent." These latter are always ready to add the one plume more to the already overtrimmed hat or bonnet, the one inch more to the heightened heel of a boot or shoe. Their appearance is grotesque and amusing to the laughing philosopher, while it is saddening and pitiful to the weeping one. The headgear is high and narrow, the height of the trimmings being apparently in proportion to the excessive narrowness, which gives the bonnet or hat the look of having been gummed to the sides of the head. In contrast with this and the tightened waist is the immense protuberance that marks the skirt below the waist at the back, which some one has recently compared to the "flying buttress" of architecture. These "excessivités, as a French journalist styles them, are not even consistent with each other. The length of the flattened headgear contradicts the bunchiness of the draperies, and the wasp waist that is in close proximity to this mass of folds is rendered by them even less probable than it otherwise would be. Perhaps worse than either of these, however, says the *Daily News*, is the unnatural deformity produced by inserting artificial prominences in the front of the bodice. One would gladly ignore such mistaken and vulgar devices, but they refuse to be ignored. They thrust themselves upon the observation, challenging the admiration they can never receive. Those who supplement nature by such extraordinary methods as the above may well be supposed to be entirely devoid of any sense of the fitness of things. The idea of proportion or true symmetry can never have entered their shallow brains. To their apprehension grace is a convertible term with fashion. Nothing beyond "what is worn" is needed to recommend any mode, however hideous or unsuitable to them. They sprawl huge checks over their bodies, marking both the real and the supplementary out in patches. Or they content themselves with merely horizontal or only perpendicular lines, not chosen with any regard to the fitness of stripes to the exigencies of figure, but merely influenced by the dicta of the fashion journals as to whether "stripes run round or down this season." It is the wealthy who are the greatest sinners in all these respects, misusing their superior opportunities. The poorer classes ape what they think "so novel and so very stylish." Their leaders ought to know better. The followers can scarcely be expected to do so. These still further exaggerate the absurdities of the models they slavishly copy, and the bulging backs of dresses to be seen in Westbourne-grove on a "fine day for shopping" are a fitting corollary to those to be marked in Hyde-park in the mornings. Still lower down in the social scale, no one can be surprised to come upon still further developments, or to see a grimy little person wheeling a perambulator, with a penny periodical in her hand, an ostrich-like waggle about her skirts, and an eagle's feather thrust through the folds of mangy black velvet in her battered hat, the brim of which is edged with gouty pearls. Every woman of education who encourages the senseless absurdities of fashion in her own costume may see in such unfortunate little girls as the one described, who know no better, a distorted reflection of herself, as she appears in the eyes of persons possessed of common sense and a small modicum of taste.

It is fortunate that we have a bright reverse of the medal to which to turn. The eccentricities of fashion are by no means encouraged or copied by the great ladies of our land. Take, as an instance, the dress worn by the Princess of Wales on the occasion of the opening of the Exhibition of Inventions. Here was no grotesque outline. The folds of softly-falling cashmere and velvet, dotted with pale gold, fell naturally round the graceful figure. As there was no undue compression of the waist, so there was no sudden terrace-like projection beneath it. The costume was made to fit the wearer; and not the latter moulded to fit the costume. The bonnet was small, close-fitting, comfortable-looking, and of course becoming. The whole attire, exactly suited to the occasion, the season, the weather, and the Royal wearer, was seen and marked by thousands of our bourgeoisie. But how many of those thousands will endeavour to imitate its quiet, lady-like grace? Will they not rather try to emulate the loud keynote struck in the toilettes of other ladies who were present, whose toilettes suggested the *fanfare militaire* of brazen-throated trumpets or the rattling glare of some set-piece in fireworks. To be conspicuous rather than well dressed seems the aim of too many of our middle classes. At our London play-houses a glance round the stalls and private boxes will suffice to tell the spectator who are and who are not of good social position. The former wear dresses high to the throat and quiet in colour. Too many of the latter appear in low-cut bodices, their heads decked with flowers, their necks and arms glittering with jewels. To these an evening at the theatre is an occasion, an opportunity for display. But such display in public is in the worst taste, just as are those humps and excrescences with which the women of our middle classes disfigure themselves in their walks abroad. They do not realise that all this stuffing and padding, these elevations and compressions, are but the elaboration of vulgarity.

A well-dressed woman has one idea carried throughout her dress. This gives it a simplicity in the midst of its costly richness that is unintelligible to the majority, who endeavour to attain a similar result by far other methods. The small cushion stuffed with fine hair that throws out the folds of the dress at the back is replaced by a cage-like construction of steels and tapes, that wriggles about at every step, and over which it would be impossible for the most skilfully draped folds to look artistic. Where Worth or Redfern would place one knot of ribbon, the fourth-rate dressmaker crowds on three or four, and is under the impression that by so doing she is increasing the effect. "That dress ought to look well," she remarks, "there's five pounds' worth of jet trimming on it." Everything is gauged by the cost; taste is nowhere, simplicity at a discount. And it is the same in the matter of colour. "All your bonnets have green in them, and I cannot wear green," remarked a lady to a milliner. "Oh, madam, it is the fashion," was the reply, "and you'll like it after you've worn it a few times." She evidently thought this argument irresistible, and was both surprised and hurt when the impracticable customer insisted on a headgear guiltless of green. Purchasers who have the courage of their opinions are rare. They are not popular. Bonnets and gowns are prepared for those who blindly take what fashion flings to them. If ten inches of bonnet trimming rising above the brow in a slightly backward sloping line should rather astound a small purchaser whose height is a little over five feet, she is calmed by the assurance that the trimmings in question will make her look taller. The real effect is to make her waist appear to be exactly in the middle of her entire length, bonnet included. If Englishwomen would only believe that these ugly exaggerations are not adopted by ladies of taste, but are by them considered as the livery of the ill-bred, they would perhaps feel no inclination to waste their money on what neither adorns them nor marks them as being well-dressed save in the eyes of the poor girls whom their gaudy example harms. The very best-dressed woman is she who keeps more or less to one style, adapting it sufficiently to the innovations of the hour to prevent its becoming conspicuous. She employs a first-rate milliner, who knows exactly what she likes, and, approximately, what number of dresses she will need in the year. In making her purchases in Paris this modiste bears in mind her customer's taste, and brings home with her some articles that are subdued in colour, but rich in artistic effect. In making her dresses it is recognised that no humps nor rotundities may be inserted with a view to the unnatural distension of draperies. The dress of such women may not always be poetry; but it may at least be described as smoothly-flowing prose, without any sudden jerks or hilly phrases.

THE PENALTIES OF THE COMPETITIVE SYSTEM.

At long intervals a pupil at some secondary school becomes delirious, is carried home, and left, with the compliments of the management, to die pitifully. Thus it is conclusively proved that there is one annual case of overpressure. But every year hundreds of chests collapse, and backs get out of shape, and scholars disappear; and as no one makes inquiries, it is still evident that there is only one case of overpressure.

So long as it is admitted, outside the official circle, that children were not made to live on the multiplication table alone, the general public does not require to be argued into the belief that ill-fed infants are not fit subjects for the master's ferule. But it is equally aware that its own boys and girls who have left Elementary schools behind them, and are now struggling in the race for scholarships and fellowships and professional degrees and Government appointments, are in scores of cases working with even more weary brains, and a still more dismal prospect of being "overpressed" into their graves? If the Education Code cripples its hundreds in the Elementary schools, competitive examination for advanced students promises to cripple its thousands. In the nineteenth century it may be a necessary evil that young men and women should be subjected to tests that might try machines; but even machinery requires to be fed according to the quantity and the kind of work that is to be demanded of it. Benevolent gentlemen, benevolent institutions, and scholastic bodies, anxious to encourage learning, do not seem to have found this out yet; and they invite a thousand needy young people to lay themselves out for a competition that will assist one of them to a possible competency (if he does not succumb the day after the examination), and leaves the remaining nine hundred and ninety-nine needier than ever, unfitted for resuming their former work, and with impaired constitutions into the bargain. This is called giving the masses a lift. It is an enticing of them away from the life they were born to as far as the walls of the promised land, which they cannot climb, and then leaving them to find their way home.

Not long ago a Scotch student who "dined out" (landladies in the North know what that means) walked from his attic window into the street; and, when an examination was made into his effects, it was found that he had been living for a winter session on a barrel of potatoes. This was only one case in many. Wealthier undergraduates add a red herring; and a large number get along on a shilling's-worth of dinner a week. That is a mince-pie a day, with fasting on Sunday. This is a simple statement of fact; it is very commendable, and it explains why the classrooms that are so crowded in November are so comparatively thin by March. The same state of matters holds wherever poor boys are ambitious of academic honours. It is almost as prominent a feature in university life as the "wines," though we hear less about it; and in London it is illustrated in all the dreary streets that let themselves out in lodgings. Not every medical student is a rowdy. Some of them ruin their own constitutions by gaslight before they are qualified to mend those of other people; and now that the crammers have got their hands well in, the trade in overpressure is being practised in self-defence in our public schools. With advanced classes for ladies, and scholarships and fellowships for ladies, and colleges and degrees for ladies, our girls have now quite as good an opportunity as their brothers for grinding the health out of their bodies; and medical men are beginning to tell us that though the young men are going fast the young women are going faster.

There is overpressure, and to some extent there is a remedy. In a free country young men and women can starve themselves and overwork themselves for the sake of what is called education, and no one can interfere. If we insist upon competitive examination as the test (and it is the simplest, very much the simplest—for the examiner), it will be advisable for the student still to cram. But physicians and the wiser teachers who have inquired into the matter are fairly unanimous that overpressure would receive a check if more variety were introduced into the examinations. A student can work without injury to his health at a subject in which he is personally interested. It is the uncongenial (and hence unprofitable) task that takes it out of him. Why should there be so many compulsory subjects at our examinations? To stamp out the specialist, it is said. But for whose benefit? That of the full man. A more puling argument was never used for the deception of an easy-going people. A clever young man has a love for the classics and a detestation for mathematics; but he would become a narrow man if he was allowed to steep himself in the beauties of the former—to do honest work, that is to say—and he becomes a full man by wearily cramming at the latter: in other words, by doing worthless work. The years spent on any study by a man who has a distaste for it are worse than squandered; for he has to live laborious nights stuffing his head with the facts of which he will never be able to make any use (though other persons could), and driving out other facts that he could turn to advantage. It is only a muddling of the brain. The specialist can overtax his strength too; but it is at least to some profit—possibly to the community, perhaps only to himself; but the "all round" man who can grind up anything, the Mr. Toots of the examination class-room, the mechanical swotter at eighteen hours a day, "reads" himself into a fever to the harm of everybody, himself included. If the examiners doubt that his "mathematical training" (what a shame it is to give such a fine name to such a make-belief!) has done no good to the candidate who loathes his Euclid, yet contrives to pass "with distinction" in it, let them catch him unawares a fortnight afterwards and subject him to a second examination. Then he took 75 per cent. marks; now he fails to reach 30. This is no surmise. Hundreds of students who look back with a shiver upon their grind at uncongenial work are ready to offer themselves in illustration. To insist on so many varied compulsory subjects at competitive examinations or examinations for degrees, where "general knowledge" is what is wanted, is to foster overpressure in its worst form; for it is overpressure that could easily be avoided, and for which not a single word in extenuation can be said. Now that so many examinations are open to women, its pernicious effect is emphasized; for the girl at a task for which she has no aptitude has to slave harder and falls to pieces quicker than the boy. At Girton and Newnham the overpressure to which the weaker sex is most liable is reduced to a minimum. But there are scores of girl-students outside these colleges for every one in them, and these, having no superintendent to shut their books and send them to the gymnasium at the proper time, are often sad to look upon when the test-day comes round. The male student takes too little open-air excercise; it is not easy to get his female rival to take any. The authorities have thus a good case when they hold that the students are laid low because they do not take ordinary precautions; but that, after all, is hardly an argument why the road to disease should be smoothed for them.—*St. James's Gazette.*

DISESTABLISHMENT IN SCOTLAND.

A reply to the statement on Mr. Dick Peddie's Disestablishment Bill, prepared by the committee of the Church of Scotland on "Church Interests," has been issued by the Scottish Disestablishment Association, and has been forwarded to members of Parliament.

1. The reply states that it is simply a delusion to imagine that the Church of Scotland has a majority of the Protestant population, and that the marriage statistics are quite inconclusive as to that matter. Against the annual voluntary liberality of the Church, stated in an official return lately issued at £287,633, the association puts the income of the two leading non-established Churches thus:—Free Church, £585,154; United Presbyterian Church, £381,514; total, £966,668. And it appeals to these figures as showing the power of the voluntary principle to provide for the maintenance of religious ordinances.

2. As to the scope of the measure, the association states that the details of the Bill are matters for adjustment in committee. With reference to the complaint that it is proposed to confiscate the *Quoad Sacra* churches, the Established Church is reminded that at the Disruption of 1843 it appropriated many of these churches which had been built by Free Church congregations.

3. With regard to ecclesiastical assessments, the association cannot understand why any one should wish to perpetuate them in Scotland, seeing that they were abolished in England many years ago.

4. As to the results of the Bill, the association refuses to believe that any considerable number of parish ministers would consent to draw their pensions and enjoy their manses without performing any duty in return. The parochial system, it is said, has broken down where it was most needed—in large towns and mining and manufacturing districts. Finally, "Disestablishment will in no way interfere with anything that properly belongs to the Church of Scotland as a Church of Christ. Neither Presbytery, Synod, nor General Assembly will in any way be interfered with. . . . The disestablishment of the Church would put an end to the ecclesiastcal divisions which now subsist, and pave the way for the cordial co-operation of the Presbyterian Churches in Christian work. The Established Church claims to be numerically the largest. It is admittedly the most wealthy, and can have no difficulty in maintaining its own ministers and churches, as is done by the non-established Churches. It has too long monopolised the national funds, and it is time that these should no longer be diverted to what are virtually sectarian purposes, but be applied to promote some national object."

At its first session, on Tuesday night, the Synod of the United Presbyterian Church adopted, by a large majority, Dr. Hutton's motion, approving Mr. Dick Peddie's Bill.

Ecclesiastical.

PREFERMENTS AND APPOINTMENTS.

Rev. L. W. H. Andrews, Curate of Bolton, Suffolk, to Rectory of Lamas-with-Little Hautbois. Patron, Mrs. Grain, of Hamworth-park, Middlesex.

Rev. G. Bellby, to Incumbency of Walton, near Bath.

Rev. L. C. Biggs, Chaplain of Malacca, to be Chaplain of Penang.

Rev. T. G. Browne, to Vicarage of Tilford, Farnham, Surrey, to Vicarage of Fareham, Hants. Patron, the Bishop of Winchester.

Rev. H. B. Chapman, Chaplain to Lord Brabazon, to Vicarage of St. Luke's, Camberwell. Patron, the Bishop of Rochester.

Rev. W. B. Collins, to Rectory of Elvington.

Rev. J. S. Cope, Curate of Sidbury, Sidmouth, to Vicarage of Chaldon Herring, Dorset. Patrons, the University of Oxford, by lapse.

Rev. A. Garbouahian, Consular Chaplain at Malaga, to be Consular Chaplain at Marseilles. Patron, the Crown.

Rev. J. Parker, to Missions to be Seamen Chaplain, the Tees.

Rev. S. G. Ponsonby, Chaplain of Trinity College, to Vicarage of Holy Sepulchre, Cambridge. Patrons, the Parishioners.

Rev. F. J. Powell, to Incumbency of St. John-the-Evangelist, Knotty Ash, Liverpool.

Rev. H. M. Rowdon, to Vicarage of Long Marston, Herts.

Rev. S. Slater, to Rectory of Steingot, Louth. Patron, Mr. G. M. Alington.

Rev. J. G. Watson, Vicar-Designate St. John's Church, Spark-hill, Birmingham; to be Association Secretary for the Church Missionary Society in the Midland District.

Rev. B. H. Williams, Curate-in-Charge of Biedlow, Bucks, to Vicarage of Austrey, Warwickshire. Patron, the Lord Chancellor.

LICENCE TO CURACY BY THE BISHOP OF HEREFORD.—Rev. Gerald Leigh Spencer, M.A., to Thruxton and Kingstone.

OBITUARY.

March 25, at Cooktown, North Queensland, the Rev. Alfred Harrison, Incumbent of Christ Church, Cooktown.

April 9, on board the *Sobrson*, off the Cape of Good Hope, the Rev. Ernest E. Bellman, aged 32.

May 5, at Sedgefield Rectory, the Rev. John Patrick Eden, M.A., Rector of Sedgefield, and Hon. Canon of Durham Cathedral, aged 71.

May 7, at Buckland St. Mary, the Rev. J. E. Lance, for fifty-five years Rector of Buckland St. Mary, aged 91.

May 8, at Gunness Rectory, the Rev. W. Allcroft, Rector of Gunness-with-Burringham, aged 57.

May 8, at Aspall Hall, the Rev. Charles Henry Chevallier Rector of Aspall, J.P., R.D., Hon. Canon of Norwich Cathedral, aged 61.

May 8, at Long Wittenham, the Rev. James Charles Clutterbuck, fifty-five years Vicar of Long Wittenham, Berks, aged 83.

May 9, at Poriock, the Rev. Robert Freke Gould, Rector of Stoke Pero, aged 85.

May 9, the Rev. H. A. L. Grindle, M.A., Vicar of St. Peter's, Devizes, aged 50.

May 10, the Rev. Charles Miller, M.A., fifty-three years Vicar of Harlow, Essex, aged 82.

May 10, the Rev. F. E. Perrin, M.A., Rector of Ribchester.

UNIVERSITY AND COLLEGIATE.

OXFORD.

The Rev. J. S. Cope has been elected by Convocation to the Vicarage of Chaldon Herring, Dorset, the patronage of which had lapsed to the University for the present turn. The number of votes given was—for Mr. Cope, 62; for Mr. Wynne, 15.

The degree of D.D. *honoris causâ* was conferred, in a Convocation held on Wednesday afternoon, upon the Rev. William T. Thornhill Webber, M.A., Pembroke College, Bishop Designate of Brisbane.

MISCELLANEOUS CHURCH INTELLIGENCE.

The Archbishop of Canterbury's primary visitation will be held about the middle of October, and not in September as previously announced.

The Bishop of London will hold his first Ordination in St. Paul's Cathedral on Trinity Sunday.

The Bishop of Rochester, on account of ill-health, is on the point of leaving for the Mediterranean. He hopes to return a little after Whitsuntide.

The Bishop of London has consented to become a patron of the London Church Choir Association.

The Warden of Keble College, we regret to say, had a relapse on Tuesday, and his condition causes increased anxiety.

We (the *Guardian*) have been requested to state that the Hon. and Rev. E. V. Bligh has withdrawn from the Church Association.

At a meeting of Old Harrovians, presided over by Mr. Beresford Hope, it was decided to erect a mural monument, with sculptured figure, to the memory of the late Bishop Wordsworth.

Archdeacon Farrar, who last week had a relapse, has so far recovered as to be able to resume his Bampton lectures at Oxford to-morrow (Sunday).

Sir Prescott Hewett and Mr. Butt met on Wednesday, and, after visiting Canon Wilberforce, had a consultation. Shortly afterwards the medical report issued was that the Canon was quite free from fever, and there was an increase of strength. There was no improvement as to the local malady.

The Bishop of Winchester has appointed his youngest son, the Rev. T. G. Browne, vicar of

Tilford, Farnham, Surrey, to the vicarage of Fareham, Hants. The living is valued at £530 per annum, with house and four acres of glebe. Mr. Browne, who was admitted to priest's orders by his father in 1875, was presented to his present benefice in 1879, and has for some years held the office of chaplain to the Bishop.

The Archbishop of Canterbury left Lambeth Palace yesterday (Friday) week for Canterbury, where he has been the guest of the Dean. On Saturday his Grace held Confirmations at Elham (78 candidates) and Bridge (nearly 100), and on Monday similar services were held in Canterbury city. The Archbishop, who was attended by his chaplain, the Rev. Montague Fowler, took part in the services of the Cathedral on Sunday, preaching in the afternoon.

An ordination service was held by the Bishop of Nassau on Sunday, Feb. 15, at the Cathedral, Nassau, when Frank d'Ynza Brace, Student of the College of SS. Peter and Paul, Dorchester, Oxon, was admitted to deacon's orders. On Sunday, April 26, at St. Mary's Church, Nassau, the Bishop ordained to priest's orders Marshall M. J. Cooper, deacon at Andros Island, and Henry W. J. Head, deacon at Watling's Island.

On Friday last, at the invitation of the University branch of the Guild of St. Matthew, the Rev. Stewart Headlam (warden, G. S. M.) lectured in the music-hall, Holiwell-lane, Oxford, on "Some of the characteristics of Secularism in Large Towns." There was a good attendance of undergraduates. The following notice was given out by the local secretary (Br. Philips, of Merton):—"By kind permission of the Principal of the Pusey House, there will be a celebration of the Holy Communion at 8 o'clock this (Saturday) morning on behalf of the better fulfilment by the Church of her duties towards the classes at present alienated from her. The members and friends of the G. S. M. are invited to attend." A goodly number gratefully availed themselves of this invitation.

Canon Trevor writes to the *Guardian*:—"The Bishop of Liverpool has published his disbelief in the paternal authority—indeed of all Episcopal authority not enforced by statute law. He has no objection to litigation; he refuses to exercise the right of initiating proceedings; he abandons his privilege to a layman, and thinks to escape the responsibility. This he cannot do. The law has placed the responsibility upon him, and he cannot shift it. It is not a *veto*, as I have shown; the Bishop is the moving power, the active prosecutor of the suit. This is the law, whatever he may think of it, and he has no more right to break it than Mr. Bell Cox to break the law of ritual. Between these two strong-willed men of opposite parties paternal authority, it must be confessed, is in a bad way. Yet it is still the law of this Church and realm—a law as binding on Bishops as on clergymen. No one has a right to reproach Mr. Bell Cox for canonical disobedience till he can show that the Bishop of Liverpool has canonically exercised his paternal authority."

Mr. J. D. Chambers, President of the Association for the Promotion of the Unity of Christendom, writes to advocate the keeping of Rogation Tuesday as the Day of Intercession for the Reunion of Christendom, which was, he observes, recommended to be observed annually by the said Lambeth Conference in the following emphatic terms:—

"Remembering the blessing promised to united intercession, and believing that such intercession ever tends to deepen and strengthen that Unity of His Church for which our Lord earnestly pleaded in His great intercessory prayer, your committee trust that this Conference will give the weight of its recommendation to the observance throughout the Churches of this communion of a season of prayer for the unity of Christendom."

The observance of a Day of Intercession for Unity is now in danger of being given up. Such being the case, it is much to be desired that his Grace the Archbishop, as well as both Houses of Convocation, should reiterate the above recommendation, that Rogation Tuesday be observed as the day of solemn intercession for the reunion of the whole of Christendom into Christ's Catholic Church, lest that most important object should practically be lost sight of.

Mr. A. J. B. Beresford-Hope, M.P., presided on Tuesday afternoon at a meeting of Old Harrovians in the Jerusalem Chamber, Westminster, to consider the best form a memorial to Bishop Wordsworth could take. A letter was read from the Rev. Dr. Butler, deprecating any small scholarships or prizes, and Mr. Roundell, one of the governors of the school, moved, and Mr. Stanhope, M.P., seconded, a resolution that it should take the form of a mural monument with a sculptured figure in the school chapel which he had founded, and where he had established preaching to the boys by the masters. Mr. Nicholson and others desired a larger scheme, as did the Rev. N. Oxenham, such as a good scholarship at Oxford and Cambridge for some boy taking holy orders; but the Chairman said that with the many calls on Old Harrovians as well as others it would be better to decide on the smaller scheme at first, and leave to others the carrying, if possible, of a larger one. Several speakers spoke of Dr. Wordsworth's wonderful moral influence, which was compared to Gordon's, owing to his singleness of aim, utter unselfishness, and devotion to the highest standard of morality and ideal of truth, and of his being a third century Bishop living in the nineteenth; while others showed by figures and otherwise that the school had not fallen in his time to the extent supposed, and that the decrease was owing to causes quite beyond his control. It was said the Bishop taught the boys to be first Christians, then gentlemen, and lastly scholars. The motion was carried *nem. con.*

The Bishop of Manchester, preaching on Sunday in Blackpool, said he thought the assertions of people who took a desponding view of things that our national character was losing some of its best features was not without some portion of truth. There was no doubt that the strength of the national moral fibre was being weakened by the manifest tendencies of the age. What those tendencies were, were obvious—the worship of Mammon, the false idea of manhood and womanhood, the insidious attractions of selfish and even sensual pleasures, the enervating influences of luxury. The country was now passing through a time of trial. Trade was depressed, almost every interest was suffering; taxation, both local and national, was increasing, and government seemed to be becoming more and more difficult every year. Then some social evils were very much to the front. There was the question of the housing of the poor, upon which a Royal Commission had just made a report—a report which seemed to him to be a rather hopeless one. Then party spirit—a noxious evil—threatened to run higher than ever. Wild socialistic dreams, which could only end in anarchy and the dissolution of society, and which were perfectly unscrupulous in the means employed to gain their end, were taking possession of many minds, and all these things constituted a trial which almost amounted to a peril. The future was dark and uncertain enough, and he earnestly appealed to them not to do anything which would help to intensify the evils of which he had spoken. Into political, social, and national life there needed the infusion of a higher aim and a nobler purpose. In England of to-day the very idea of a man's duty to his country had grown somewhat dim. The flame of patriotism burned less brightly in men's bosoms than it did in the days of Elizabeth, Cromwell, and Nelson. He trusted that the dangers of war with the great Northern Power had passed away, for with Mr. Goldwin Smith he saw no national ground for enmity between the countries, unless false pride and guilty ambition perverted the sounder judgment of rulers and statesmen. The anxieties, however, of the past month—and they have been severely trying—had sensibly aroused the patriotism of the nation. God grant that that patriotism might be rightly directed.

Lord Ebury has sent the following letter to the *Times*, addressed to the Bishop of London:—

"*Moor-park, Rickmansworth, May* 12.

"My Lord,—I have read with great pleasure, as I have no doubt many others have done, the stirring appeals which you have made to all Christians in your diocese, and admired the clear and vigorous language in which you have set forth the present state of things in the metropolis, and the path we must pursue in order to avert the evils and dangers with which we are at this moment threatened.

"Having been acquainted with the metropolis for upwards of fifty years, and having had the privilege of being associated with Bishop Tait in the formation of the Bishop of London's Fund, I may, perhaps, be permitted to make a few remarks upon this most important subject, the more so as I know that in so doing I am speaking the mind of the late lamented Archbishop of Canterbury. It is with pleasure that in your appeal I read the word "Christians," which word I interpret to mean Christians in the broadest sense of the term, not Churchmen only. I therefore hope that we may understand your Lordship to mean that we are to unite with all those who love our Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity, and not only with those who happen to prefer our own mode of Church government. Would it not be a most inexplicable mode of proceeding for those who declare themselves most anxious to win souls for their Redeemer, and thus to overcome the evils of our present metropolitan heathenism which you so vividly describe, were we to turn a cold shoulder to, and refuse the assistance of, those who desire exactly what we do—only they set about it in a rather different way? If we unite wherever we can, and show a desire to do that which was near to the heart of the late Archbishop, with our Nonconformist brethren—such as attendances at the Bible Society and other meetings where no special ecclesiastical significance is meant; above all, if those in high positions in our hierarchy, such especially as your Lordship, will show them the courtesy and sympathy which were shown them by the late most distinguished Archprelate—we shall, I am sure I may venture to say, be doing that which is pleasing to our gracious Lord and Master, and the effort we were about to make will be crowned with success. But if, on the contrary, we are perpetually 'lamenting our unhappy divisions,' and then not stirring a finger for the purpose of removing them, my own experience tells me that our chances of success will be sadly diminished. Where would have been the names of those bright examples, Shaftesbury and Gordon, and a host of others I could name, whose names are 'watchwords upon earth when man would do a deed of worth,' had they restricted themselves to one special section of the Church Universal? Where, indeed? But I forbear to proceed further. I have said enough if what I have said is spoken rightly. I do most truly wish that instead of 'Church work' we might always say 'Christian work.' I have addressed this letter to you through the public Press in order not to impose upon you the trouble of giving me a reply.

"I remain, my Lord, your obedient servant,

"Ebury.

"The Right Rev. the Lord Bishop of London."

Mrs. Baring, widow of the late Bishop of Durham, has died at Winchester, where she had been living since the death of her husband. Mrs. Baring, who was 76 years of age, leaves one son, the Rev. F. H. Baring, vicar of Chilworth, near Romsey, and one daughter, Miss Emily C. Baring.

HOUSING OF THE WORKING CLASSES.

There was issued last week the first Report of the Royal Commission on the Housing of the Working Classes, signed by the whole of the members, including the Prince of Wales. Several of these—notably Lord Salisbury, Mr. Goschen, and Sir R. A. Cross—have appended their signatures subject to reservations contained in supplementary memoranda, which are also published. The conjoint Report begins with a review of previous legislation and the existing state of the law, and the method of inquiry pursued by the Commission is then set forth. The special section of the metropolis chosen for investigation was that lying south of the Euston-road and north of Holborn and its continuations, comprising the parishes of Clerkenwell and St. Luke, and parts of the parish of St. Pancras and of the district of Holborn. Evidence was also heard as to Bermondsey, Whitechapel, Southwark, Notting-hill, and Marylebone, and incidentally as to Chelsea, Hackney, and Westminster. Several provincial towns were also visited.

Proceeding to analyse the voluminous evidence taken in the course of their protracted inquiry, the Commissioners remark that the first witness—Lord Shaftesbury—expressed the opinion, as the result of nearly sixty years' experience, that, however great the improvement in the condition of the London poor, "overcrowding has become more serious than it ever was." Indeed, the assertion of a clergyman from the central district that the average is five families to six rooms is stated to be "under the mark rather than an exaggeration." That the evil exists in many provincial towns, however, there is a good deal of evidence given to show.

Of the moral effects of overcrowding the Report says:—"The overcrowded condition of some single rooms occupied by families in St. Luke's has already been mentioned. In some cases where grown-up sons and daughters sleep in the same rooms lodgers are taken in in addition to the regular inmates, a fact which greatly increases the tendency to immorality. The Rev. J. W. Horsley, chaplain of the Clerkenwell Prison, has made a study of the sources of crime which comes under his personal notice, and he not only says that he entertains "the very strongest opinion" that overcrowding is a great cause of immorality, but he goes on to declare that every case of incest he has ever come across, with one exception, has been traceable to the one-room system. The rector of Christchurch, Spitalfields, is equally positive. The curate of St. Philip's, Clerkenwell, thinks that the statements about incest and overcrowding are exaggerated, but says he has known of cases which he would attribute rather to drunkenness than to the one-room system; he, however, allows that this system increases the liability to such occurrences. The vicar of St. Paul's, Bunhill-row, does not think that the bringing up of a large family in one room conduces to immorality provided no lodgers are taken in. His evidence on the point is as follows:—'I have very carefully gone into the question of incest for some time, and especially of late, because of the remark that was made in that publication, "The Bitter Cry," that "incest is common." I have questioned not only Scripture readers, City missionaries, and mission women, but also medical men who have been connected with poor parishes for years, and the testimony of all those, without exception, is that they have never known a single case of it. They have heard of cases, but they have never known a case.'"

In addition to overcrowding, the evils of sanitary and structural defects in dwellings are also strongly insisted on. As regards drainage in London, the improvement during the present generation has been enormous, and instances are given of the horrible state of things which formerly prevailed. Nevertheless, there is still much room for improvement in the matter of ashpits and dustbins. The metropolitan water supply, too, is better than it was, but its inadequacy is still the cause of much unhealthiness and misery. Closet accommodation is also very defective, in spite of the powers of local authorities. In Clerkenwell there are cases as described where there is not more than one closet for sixteen houses. In a street in Westminster a witness stated that there was only one for all the houses in the street, thirty or forty people inhabiting each house, and that it was open and used by all passers-by. In other parts of London a similar state of things was said to exist, compared with which the one closet accommodation to each tenement house of many families is a satisfactory arrangement. Noxious trades, too, are a source of insanitary conditions, especially when carried on in unhealthy dwellings. Attention is called to the existence of cellar dwellings contrary to law. For instance, in Draper's-place, St. Pancras, one small underground kitchen, only 6½ feet high, was inhabited by nine persons. One point on which there was strong evidence was that to promiscuous overcrowding immorality, and that of the very vilest kind, was largely due. Nevertheless, the Commissioners "feel bound to put it on record that while the evidence before them reveals an undoubtedly bad state of things, they find that the standard of morality among the inhabitants of these crowded quarters is higher than might have been expected, looking at the surroundings amid which their lives are passed." Overcrowding is also the source of much ill-health and infantile mortality, besides much suffering among little children which does not appear in the death-rate at all.

The first cause of overcrowding is low and precarious wages. The next is high rents. On the proportion of rent to income some valuable evidence was given by Mr. Marchant Williams as follows:—From personal investigation of parts of the parishes of Clerkenwell, St. Luke's, St. Giles's, Marylebone, and other poor quarters of London, he finds that 88 per cent. of the poor population pay more than one-fifth of their income in rent; 46 per cent. pay from one-fourth to one-half; 42 per cent. pay from one-fourth to one-fifth; and only 12 per cent. pay less than one-fifth of their weekly wages in rent. These figures are gathered from an inquiry extending over nearly 1,000 dwellings, taken at random in different poor parts of the metropolis. Among them 3s. 10¾d. is the average rent of one room let as a separate tenement, 6s. of two-roomed tenements, and 7s. 5½d. of three-roomed tenements. Rents in the congested districts of London are getting gradually higher, and wages are not rising, and there is a prospect, therefore, of the disproportion between rent and wages growing still greater.

The Commissioners next proceed to consider the position of the middlemen, or house-farmers, on which subject important evidence was given by Lord William Compton, son of the Marquis of Northampton, who owns a large estate in Clerkenwell and Islington, and by Mr. Boodle, the agent of the Marquis of Northampton and the Duke of Westminster. The Report says:—"From the evidence of these two witnesses, it appears that the existence of the system of house-farming is in some measure owing to the preference for middlemen on the part of both the landlord and his man of business. Moreover, this evidence shows that there is an indisposition on the part of landlords to avail themselves stringently of the provisoes in their leases for re-entry, and for the troublesome and costly process of ejectment of tenants in case of breach of covenant, the covenants usually including external and internal repairing, cleaning and painting, and the keeping in order of drains. On the Clerkenwell estate Lord William Compton went very carefully into some of the figures relating to houses leased from the Marquis of Northampton by certain house-farmers. In Queen-street he ascertained the exact rents received by and paid to two persons of this class, who are also members of the Vestry of Clerkenwell. At No. 10, for instance, he found that the weekly rent of the front room was 12s., of the back room 4s. 6d., of the kitchen 3s., of the first floor 13s., and of the second floor 7s. This amounted to about £100 a year, and the rent which the house-jobber paid to Lord Northampton was £20 a year. The agent to the Northampton Estate allows that a middleman might in a particular instance be making 150 per cent. per annum, not counting his outlay for repairs, but that the repairs are only wanted once in three or four years, and therefore in the other years he makes his 150 per cent."

It is notorious that in most of the London parishes the ratepayers generally take little or no interest in the local elections, and, as a consequence, a considerable number of persons find their way into the local vestries who have their own ends to serve. On this subject important evidence was given by Mr. Paget, the vestry clerk of Clerkenwell. The Report says: "In Islington there is one sanitary inspector to 56,000 inhabitants; in St. Pancras, one to 59,000; in Greenwich, one to 65,000; in Bermondsey, one to 86,000; and in Mile-end, one to 105,000. Clerkenwell, with a population of 69,000, employs the services of two sanitary inspectors, with an assistant, who is, however, also sexton and coroner's officer; it cannot, therefore, be considered as an extreme instance of inactivity in this respect. Standing, as it does, half-way between the least inspected of the districts cited, and the case of St. James's, Westminster, which has one inspector to every 9,000 population, it will not be unfair to examine shortly the constitution of the vestry of that parish as one of the local authorities which have the sanitary condition of London in their keeping. This vestry consists of seventy-two members, of whom the average attendance is stated by Mr. Paget, the vestry clerk, to be from twenty-five to thirty. There are on the vestry thirteen or fourteen persons who are interested in bad or doubtful property, and they include several of the middlemen already referred to. There are, moreover, ten publicans on the vestry, who, with the exception of one or two, have in this parish the reputation of working with the party who trade in insanitary property, and accordingly this party commands a working majority on the vestry. Taking the house-farmers alone, it is found, from Mr. Paget's evidence, that they preponderate in very undue proportion on the most important Committees on the vestry. On the Works Committee there are ten out of the fourteen house farmers referred to, on the Assessment Committee seven out of the fourteen appear."

The Commissioners recommend that measures should be taken to secure the enforcement of the provisions of the Sanitary Acts of 1866 and 1874; that the sanitary laws should be consolidated; that cellar dwellings should be prohibited; that the provision of public mortuaries should be made compulsory; that in the rear of every new dwelling house, whether in old or new streets, there be provided a proportionate extent of space exclusively belonging to a dwelling-house or building; that the staff of sanitary inspectors should be increased; and that the sites of London prisons should be cleared in order to erect artisans' dwellings.

Another important statement is the following:—"It is evident that the remedies which legislation has provided for sanitary evils have been imperfectly applied in the metropolis, and that this failure has been due to the negligence, in many cases, of the existing local authorities. It does not appear that more satisfactory action on their part can be secured without reform in the local administration of London." Supplementary to the above conclusions, the Comissioners further say:—"Without entering upon questions of policy of far wider application than the more immediate subject-matter of the present inquiry, we are clearly of opinion that there has been failure in administration rather than in legislation, although the latter is no doubt capable of improvement. With the view, therefore, of bringing specially under public attention the sanitary condition of the different districts in the metropolis, your Majesty's Commissioners recommend that the Secretary of State should be empowered to appoint one or more competent persons for the purpose of inquiring as to the immediate sanitary requirements of each district, having regard to the several powers entrusted to the local authority, whether the Metropolitan Board of Works or the vestry or district board, that the local authority should be empowered to nominate members of their own body to act with the officers so appointed, and that the Reports of the result of such inquiries by the officers appointed should be transmitted to the local authorities, and should also be laid before Parliament."

Dealing next with the question of public loans, the Commissioners express the opinion that "the general principle they would lay down is that the State should lend at the lowest rate possible without loss to the national exchequer, and that in making the necessary calculations ancient losses should not be brought into account." In reference to the subject of workmen's trains, it is said that "if the railways are to be utilised for the benefit of the poorer wage-earning classes, two conditions must be satisfied—first, the fares must not exceed the difference between the rent of their homes in the overcrowded districts which ought to be relieved, and the lower rents in the suburbs; secondly, the Companies must provide carriages at these reduced fares which will bring the people to and from their work at convenient hours." The evils of displacing large populations by railway and other companies are pointed out, and it is urged that the standing order requiring a return of the numbers of people affected requires reform so as to be less easily evaded. Turning to the establishment of model dwellings, the Commissioners remark that "the evidence that was given on this point corroborates a feeling which has long existed that the model dwellings do not reach the class whose need is the greatest." Several additional recommendations follow in reference to sanitary matters. The special cases of what is termed the "van population" and the hop and fruit pickers are also dealt with.

The second report of the Royal Commission on the Housing of the Working Classes deals exclusively with Scotland. The evidence taken referred to three different classes of the population in Scotland, viz., inhabitants of towns, agricultural lowlands, and of the highlands and islands. General feeling expressed in evidence as to large towns is that the condition of housing of working classes, though in many cases deplorable, is not of the extreme miserable character existing in London. Certain amendments of the law, however, appear to be called for, and introduction of uniform system of administration in sanitary matters is required. The Commission recommend that the

Burgh Police and Health Board (Scotland) Bill, now before Parliament, which contains provisions likely to improve the dwellings of the working classes, should be passed into law. They also recommend the reduction of the cost of transfer of land and of small houses. With reference to the rural portions of Scotland, the state of things is reported as being more favourable in the lowlands than in the highlands and islands. The condition of the crofters' and cottars' houses seems to depend on the condition of their tenure of land, the consideration of which being beyond the scope of the Commission, they abstain from making recommendations thereupon. They, however, express the opinion that much good would ensue from an improved system of local government in the extra-urban parts of Scotland, and they urgently recommend the constitution of larger sanitary districts and that the local authorities should be elected by the ratepayers. Mr. Jesse Collings, in dissenting from the latter part of the report, says that the miserable condition of the crofters and cottars was clearly revealed, and that the report should contain the strongest condemnation of the arbitrary and capricious powers possessed by the landowners, which demand immediate legislation.

THE COURT.

The Queen and Princess Beatrice and the members of Her Majesty's household attended Divine service in the Private Chapel in Windsor Castle on Sunday morning. The Very Rev. Randall Davidson, Dean of Windsor, officiated.

According to present arrangements, it is expected that Her Majesty the Queen will leave Windsor Castle on Thursday next for Balmoral. She will return to England and proceed to Osborne about the 20th of July, and the wedding of Princess Beatrice with Prince Henry of Battenberg will take place a few days later, probably on the 24th of July.

It has been definitely arranged that Her Majesty, accompanied by Princess Beatrice and Prince Henry of Battenberg, will leave Windsor by special train on the Great Western Railway at 1.5 p.m. to-day (Saturday) for Netley, in order to visit the sick and wounded soldiers there. After her visit the Queen will return to Windsor, arriving at the Castle shortly before seven.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Lord John Manners is confined to his town residence, suffering from an attack of bronchitis.

The cost of the late Lord Mayor's funeral at St. Paul's is stated to be about £900, of which £550 are undertakers' charges.

The death of the Rev. Henry A. Stern, D.D., at the age of 65, for more than forty years a missionary of the London Society for Promoting Christianity amongst the Jews, is announced. The event took place after a short illness at his residence, 5, Cambridge Lodge-villas, Mare-street, Hackney, on the 13th inst. He was one of the Abyssinian captives who after years of protracted and cruel imprisonment were delivered by Lord Napier of Magdala in the year 1868.

The ceremony of presenting new colours to the 3rd battalion of the Leicestershire Regiment took place on Thursday in Victoria Park, Leicester, in the presence of a large number of spectators. Lady Adeliza Manners made the presentation, Lord John Manners being confined to his room with an attack of bronchitis.

Under the presidency of Alderman Sir Whittaker Ellis, M.P., a meeting was held at Cannon-street Hotel on Thursday night, at which a resolution was passed setting forth the desirability of organising a branch of the Royal Naval Reserve or a National Torpedo Brigade for the defence of the Thames in time of war, in which the pilots, watermen, and lightermen of the Thames might be utilised. Among the speakers were Sir John Hay, Captain Bedford Pim, and Captain Stewart Harrison.

The King of the Belgians has conferred the Royal Order of Leopold on all the members of the Deputation of the Corporation of London who recently visited Brussels and presented his Majesty with an address of congratulation in connection with the Congo Free State. The Lord Mayor (Mr. Alderman Fowler, M.P.) is designated a Knight Commander of the Order, Alderman Sir T. Dakin, the Recorder (Sir T. Chambers, M.P.), Mr. Alderman De Keyser, Mr. Alderman and Sheriff Whitehead, Mr. Sheriff Faudel Phillips, and Sir John B. Monckton, the Town Clerk, are nominated as officers, and Mr. E. Dresser Rogers and Mr. Deputy Bedford, as Chevaliers. The decorations have been sent to them through Baron Solvyns, the Belgian Minister in London.

As it is expected that a considerable number of the members of the Middle Temple will desire to be present on the "grand day," on the 10th of June, when Prince Albert Victor will be called to the Bench of that society, and will dine in the Hall, it has been arranged that every member shall receive a formal invitation. For those who accept places will then be balloted for, and a certain number will receive tickets, as the hall is not capable of accommodating more than 450 or 500 persons. Every Bencher is entitled to be present, and has, moreover, the privilege of inviting one friend. The Prince of Wales has signified his intention of being present on the occasion.

An extract from the minutes of a special meeting of the council of King's College School, held on the 8th of May, with reference to the death of the boy Bourdas, has been published. The committee state that, in view of the painful occurrence, they are of opinion that the playground and corridors must for the future be placed during the play hours under the personal supervision of the masters, on a system of rotation. They justify their action in deferring the inquiry demanded by the Home Secretary till the boys had reassembled after the holidays, and they add:—"As the matter is now in the hands of the Public Prosecutor, the council feel that this particular case is for the present taken out of their control; but the whole subject, as an element of the discipline of the school, will continue to receive their anxious attention. From careful inquies which have been already made, they are glad to think the practice of bullying has not been prevalent in the school, and the depositions taken before the coroner show that in this case the acts were not committed by boys in the upper half of the school."

Frances Countess of Gainsborough died at her house in Park-street, Grosvenor-square, on Tuesday evening. The deceased was the second daughter of the third Earl of Roden, and was born November 20, 1814. She married July 25, 1833, as his fourth wife, Charles Noel, first Earl of Gainsborough, and was left a widow in June, 1866. Her Ladyship was for many years a Lady of the Bedchamber to the Queen, which Court appointment she resigned in December, 1872, and was then made an Extra Lady of the Bedchamber to Her Majesty. She was a member of the Order of Victoria and Albert of the Second Class.

Princess Christian, who was accompanied by the Marchioness of Salisbury, Major Gordon, and Miss A. Montagu, on Monday made a series of visits to some of the more important places of interest in Poplar. Proceeding by way of the Commercial and East India Dock roads, which were decorated, the Princess visited first the Poplar Townhall, and opened a bazaar in aid of the erection of permanent mission buildings in connection with St. Saviour's Church. The Princess proceeded next to St. John's Nursing Home and inspected the general arrangements. Her Royal Highness afterwards drove amid the same demonstrations of enthusiastic loyalty which had hitherto marked her progress, to the Poplar Hospital for Accidents, where she addressed words of sympathy and encouragement to each of the patients. Before leaving the East-end the Princess inspected the East India Docks, which by the aid of a liberal display of bunting from the ships, were made to present an unusually festive appearance.

The Gordon Memorial Fund picture, "The Last Watch," will be on view at the British Gallery, 57, Pall-mall, on Monday next. It represents General Gordon as he might have been on the roof of the residence at Khartoum on the last morning of the siege. A pocket Bible and a binocular glass are in his hand, and Khartoum and glimpses of the White Nile appear in the background. Members of General Gordon's family have lent a number of articles of interest for exhibition. These include the late General's seal, a series of pictures out of the Yuen-Min-Yuen Palace at Pekin, various articles brought from China, and armour from Darfour, including a helmet worn by the Sultan of Darfour.

On Thursday (Ascension Day) the ancient custom of beating the bounds was observed in the various parishes throughout the metropolis. The boys of the respective parochial schools were served out with long willow canes for the purpose of beating the ground dividing the several parishes, and the processions were afterwards formed. In each case they were headed by the parish clerk and beadle, while in many cases the boys were dressed in their quaint uniforms, and, carrying their long canes, presented a curious appearance. In some instances the processions passed through shops and private houses, and, on being told the spot which formed the boundary of the respective parishes, the boys vigorously struck the ground with their canes. The boys were afterwards regaled with light refreshments and given a half holiday.

The committee of the National Fawcett Memorial have decided, after placing a memorial tablet in Westminster Abbey, to devote the funds which they are engaged in raising to the promotion of the higher education of the blind. It has been determined to apply a sum not exceeding £2,000 to the establishment of a Fawcett scholarship, tenable by a blind person at any of the universities of the United Kingdom, including women's colleges, and to appropriate the balance of the fund to the higher education of the blind in connection with the Royal Normal College and the Academy of Music for the Blind at Upper Norwood in some distinct form with which the name of Mr. Fawcett shall be identified. A public meeting in support of the movement will be held at the Mansion House on the 20th inst., the Lord Mayor presiding.

Convocation of the University of London met on Tuesday at the University Buildings in Burlington-gardens. Dr. F. J. Wood was unanimously elected chairman, and Mr. Henry E. Allen clerk of Convocation. The question of the Matriculation Examination was referred back to the annual committee. A special vote of thanks was passed to Dr. Storrar on his retirement from the office of chairman of Convocation after twenty-one years' service. Dr. Storrar explained that he felt compelled to retire on account of feeling physically unequal to hold the position of chairman, and he expressed his deep sense of gratitude to Convocation for their expressions of sympathy. A resolution that the question of allowing candidates who have failed only in one subject to come up for examination again in that subject only was referred to the annual committee for consideration and report, and the proceedings terminated.

A popular demonstration against the proposed increase of the beer and spirit duties took place on Wednesday night in Trafalgar-square, and was attended by some 30,000 people from all parts of London. After the chairman, Mr. S. Peters, secretary of the Sugar Operatives' Society, had briefly addressed the vast assembly from the front of the Nelson Column, Mr. Lemon was moving the first resolution, which demanded that the Chancellor of the Exchequer should withdraw the unjust tax, when the surging crowd pressed so heavily on the speakers that they, with the reporters, took refuge on the broad platform of the column itself, when the police proceeded to push them off. This incensed the demonstrators, and a scene of great confusion ensued, many persons being ill-treated by the police. The resolution was understood to be seconded by a Mr. Hanley, and it was declared by the chairman to be unanimously carried.

The readers of Mr. Frank Power's *Letters from Khartoum* may be interested to know that a curious little relic linking the name of the late *Times* correspondent with that of the hero of the Soudan, General Gordon, has reached Dublin, in the form of a tiny book, a duodecimo copy of Cardinal Newman's *Dream of Gerontius*, with handwriting and marks inside. On the fly-leaf is an inscription:—"Frank Power, with the kindest regards of C. G. Gordon. 18 Feb., '84," and lower, across the same page:—"Dearest M——, I send you this little book which General Gordon has given me. The pencil marking throughout the book is his.—Frank Power, Khartoum." The book has been forwarded to Mr. Power's sister, for whom his affectionate remembrance had destined the precious souvenir. The deep incisive pencil-marks drawn under certain lines, almost all of which name death, and cry for the prayers of friends, are touchingly interesting to see. "Pray for me, O my friends!" "'Tis Death—O loving friends, your prayers!—'tis he!" "So pray for me, my friends, who have not strength to pray!" "Use well the interval!" "Prepare to meet thy God!" "Now that the hour is come, my fear is fled;" with many other longer passages all bearing on the supreme moment at hand. The last words underlined before he gave the book to poor young Power are these:—

> Farewell, but not for ever, brother dear:
> Be brave and patient on thy bed of sorrow!

The latest touch of interest is given to this memorable incident by a letter written by Cardinal Newman to Mr. Power's sister, who had sent the tiny well-thumbed volume to the author of the *Dream of Gerontius*. Cardinal Newman writes:—"Your letter and its contents took away my breath. I was deeply moved to find that a book of mine had been in General Gordon's hands, and that the description of a soul preparing for death. I send it back to you, with my heartfelt thanks, by this post, in a registered cover. It is additionally precious as having Mr. Power's writing in it."—*Weekly Register*.

Sir Watkin Williams-Wynn, Bart., M.P., died at his Welsh seat, Wynnstay, Ruabon, early on Saturday morning, after a long and painful illness. The death of the hon. gentleman has cast a deep gloom over the whole Principality, where he was known as "The Prince in Wales." Sir Watkin was born in London in 1820, and was educated at Westminster and at Christ Church, Oxford. He was afterwards gazetted to a cornetcy in the 1st Regiment of Life Guards. At the death of his father in 1840 he succeeded to the title and estates of Wynnstay, Glan Llyn, and Bala, the largest estates in Wales. At the time of his death he was deputy-lieutenant for the counties of Denbigh, Shropshire, Merioneth, and Montgomery, Steward of Her Majesty's Manorial Courts of Denbighshire, Provincial Grand Master of North Wales and Shropshire Freemasons, Aide-de-Camp to Her Majesty the Queen, Master of the Wynnstay Hunt, colonel of the Montgomery Yeomanry Cavalry, lieutenant-colonel of the Royal Denbigh Rifle Volunteers, and had sat as a Conservative in the House of Commons for Denbighshire for forty-four years. He married, in 1852, Marie Emily, daughter of the Right Hon. Sir H. Watkin Williams-Wynn, K.C.B. During Lord Salisbury's recent visit to North Wales his Lordship was the guest of the deceased baronet. Mr. Herbert Lloyd Watkin Williams-Wynn, who recently married the late Sir Watkin's only daughter, succeeds to the title and the estates.

A singular and shocking accident occurred at Seaham Harbour on Wednesday afternoon, by which seven children were terribly injured. At the lower section of the South Helton coal line, which runs into Seaham Harbour, there is an incline which is worked with an iron rope. This rope became detached from the sheaves, and as the railway is slightly curved, the rope, in being pulled in a straight line, caught in some garden railings, tearing them up for several yards. Against these railings and on the side of the railway embankment a group of children were playing when the rope caught them and swept them into a heap. Their cries attracted attention, and on being discovered the sight presented was heartrending. The poor children lay helpless with the wire rope tightly drawn across them. As soon as possible they were released and conveyed to their homes. The names of the injured are:—Sarah Jane Briggs, aged eight, both legs broken, back much injured, and severely shaken; Mary Briggs, her sister, aged seven, cut forehead, and bruised on her thigh; Joseph Quin, aged four, one foot much cut and bruised; Jane Sanderson, aged six, left leg broken in two places, cut nose, and severely shaken; Susannah Lowe, aged five, both legs broken; James Scott, aged eight, cut and bruised about the head; Margaret Ann Straughair, aged five, injured in the head and internally. Sarah Jane Briggs, aged eight years, one of the victims to the deplorable accident, died on Thusday morning of her injuries. Susannah Lowe, another sufferer, is scarcely expected to recover.

The Archdeacon of Rochester presented the prizes and certificates for the winter session 1884 to 1885 on Wednesday night in the theatre of King's College. In divinity, Latin, Greek, law, mathematics, commerce, and commercial law the prizes fell respectively to Messrs. G. H. Carpenter, A. W. Lincham, H. Higgs, C. Bishop, H. C. Coote, and G. Bodman. The Jelf medal, given to the matriculated student who had gained the highest number of marks in divinity, mathematics, and physiology, was awarded to Mr. G. H. Carpenter. Dr. Wace, the Principal of King's College, at the close of the presentation, remarked that it was a matter of regret to find that the number of students had lately somewhat fallen off. The cause was doubtless to be traced to the large increase in the number of such schools during the last few years. The high quality of the instruction provided at the King's College evening classes would, however, he confidently hoped, lead to a speedy increase in the number of students, to whom would be afforded the extra inducements of a great many of the advantages of a university education. Dr. Wace then moved a vote of thanks to the chairman, who, in returning thanks, said that his connection with the evening classes of the college a few years ago, when he had charge of a class for theology, had been a source of great satisfaction and enjoyment to him. The desire to acquire knowledge was manifestly one of the noblest qualities, and without it one must sink to a very low level. Solitary study was, of course, somewhat disheartening, and their evening classes should serve as a means of promoting social intercourse, and he believed they supplied a missing link to the many whose only hours available for study were in the evening. The proceedings then terminated.

At the late dinner of the St. John's Foundation School the Secretary announced donations and subscriptions amounting to £1,463, and also the promise of offertories at Christ Church, Lancaster-gate; St. Stephen's, Westbourne-park; and other churches, in answer to the Chairman's appeal to the clergy. The announcement was also made of the gift of £1,000 by Mrs. Soames, of Brighton, to found a Scholarship and annual reading prizes in memory of her late husband.

The gigantic hotel, to be known as the Hôtel Métropole, is to be formally opened on Monday with a grand military concert, at which the Prince and Princess of Wales will be present. Some idea of the extent of this establishment, which has frontages to Northumberland-avenue and Whitehall-place, may be gathered from the fact that it contains about 600 bedrooms, while the grand salle, the banqueting-hall, and other dining rooms will afford accommodation for over 1,000 persons to dine at one time. The whole establishment, which is lighted throughout with the electric light, has been handsomely furnished by Messrs. Maple and Co. The principal entrance is from Northumberland-avenue, under a bold semi-circular arch. On the right of the entrance-hall is a grand marble staircase, rising to the seventh flour. Leading from this hall is a spacious reception room in the style of the Italian Renaissance, the general harmony of colour being a rich soft yellow. On the walls, under pediments supported by handsomely modelled columns, are panels fitted with tapestries representing the four Royal Palaces of Windsor, Osborne, Balmoral, and Sandringham, and symbolical of the four seasons. Going along a corridor in the direction of the drawing-room a vestibule fitted in the Arabian style is passed. Opposite is the library, a handsome room of Elizabethan character, with appointments in fumigated oak. All the windows on the corridor side are filled with stained glass. One of the private apartments of the Empress in the Tuileries has been taken as the model for the drawing-room, which is in the style of Louis XVI., the general colour effect being a soft pink, with richly gilt ceiling. Medallion heads of celebrated musical composers decorate the upper part of the walls. Next comes the Grand Salle, or principal dining-room, 120ft. in length by 45 in width, the style being Italian Renaissance. A dado, 4ft. 6in. high, of four kinds of marble, surrounds the room, the upper part of the walls being covered with rich Genoa velvet. The ceiling is supported by ten handsome columns, and the room is lit by eleven large lofty windows. Parallel with the Grand Salle is the Oak Salle, nearly square, being 50ft. by 45ft., and having oak appointments. Another noteworthy apartment is the King's Room. This is Jacobean in character, and has wainscot oak panelling, the centres of ten panels being formed by portraits, painted in oil by Mr. Holden, and representing his Majesty James I.; Algernon Percy, tenth Earl of Northumberland; Sir Walter Raleigh; Robert Carr, Earl of Somerset; George Villiers, Duke of Buckingham; Lord Howard of Effingham; Ben Jonson; Lord Bacon; Philip IV. of Spain; and Count Gondomar. Another entrance opens from Whitehall-place, passing through a smaller lobby and under a bold semi-circular arch, until a secondary hall is reached. Adjoining is the banqueting hall, 82ft. by 42ft. Eight massive columns support the ceiling, and the floor is of polished oak. On the opposite side of the corridor is what is termed the public dining-room, also in the Italian Renaissance. The upper floors are arranged in suites of sitting and bedrooms. Among others is a State suite, designated for the reception of illustrious visitors. In the basement are billiard and smoking-rooms, while the kitchens and servants' rooms are all upon the topmost floors. Another feature in the construction of the building is the sanitary block in the centre; this is only connected with the main building by corridors, and this arrangement has much to commend it, both on sanitary grounds and as a matter of convenience. Visitors to the grand military concert will have the opportunity of inspecting the arrangements and appointments of the hotel, which will be opened for the reception of guests on June 1.

CAUTION.—WATER FILTRATION.—The public are cautioned, before purchasing Filters, to see that what they buy are really water purifiers, and not mere strainers, which latter, although rendering water bright, do not remove the organic and mineral impurities. In the instructions to the local boards of health by order of the Privy Council it has been distinctly stated that the old sponge filters are of no avail for purifying water. These filters are constantly advertised as a new patent, whereas the ONLY FILTERS, containing nothing but the purest ANIMAL CHARCOAL, are those supplied by the LONDON AND GENERAL WATER-PURIFYING COMPANY (Limited), 157, Strand (four doors from Somerset House), W.C.—Read "Water: its Impurities and Purification." Price 6d.

BIRTHS.

March 20, at Wuchang, China, the wife of the Rev. HERBERT SOWERBY, of the American Episcopa Mission, of a daughter.

May 3, at Woodford Rectory, Thrapston, the wife of the Rev. J. T. WATSON, of a son.

May 5, at 61, Old-stoke-road, Stoke Newington, the wife of the Rev. T. EDWIN HOWLETT, M.A., Incumbent of St. Michael and All Angels', Stoke Newington-common, of a daughter.

May 9, at Sutton Croft, Cookham, Berks, the Hon. Mrs. ARTHUR C. C. PLUNKET, of a daughter.

May 9, at Overton Rectory, Flintshire, the wife of the Rev. GEORGE JOHN HOWSON, of a daughter.

May 10, at 19, Rutland-gate, Lady HOWARD of GLOSSOP, of a son and heir.

May 11, at 9, Henrietta-street, Cavendish-square, the Lady AGNES COOPER, of a daughter.

MARRIAGES.

April 28, at Christ Church, Ottawa, Canada, FRANCIS HILTON-GREEN, youngest son of the Rev. Canon Hilton-Green, Rector of West Keynton, Wiltshire, to MARY, daughter of the Lord Bishop of ONTARIO.

May 5, at the Catholic Church, Upper Norwood, ALEXANDER FOWLER, son of the late Rev. James Fowler, of Glen Urquhart, Inverness-shire, to LETITIA HARIET MONA, youngest daughter of the late Rev. FREDERICK ROGERS BLACKLEY, Rector of Freshford, near Bath.

May 5 at Hermitage, near Newbury, the Rev. PHILIP A. LONGMORE, Vicar of the parish, to EMMA CONSTANCE, second daughter of W. HULBERT, Esq., Solicitor, of Hermitage.

May 6, R. R. A. DOOLAN, Rector of Corscombe, Dorchester, to ANNE GERTRUDE, second doughter of the late Rev. W. RUMANN, of Sutton Bonington, Loughborough.

May 7, at the Parish Church, Membury, Devon, the Rev. ALFRED GRIFFITHS, M.A. to ALICE MARY, eldest daughter of Captain H. W. COMBER, R.N.

DEATHS

March 14, at Sydney, New South Wales, CHARLES, youngest son of the late Rev. SAMUEL REEVE, B.A., aged 67.

April 30, at 1, Harley-place, Clifton, CAROLINE, widow of the late Rev. HENRY RICHARDS, for thirty-six years Rector of Horfield, Bristol, and last surviving daughter of the late Rev. James Daubeny, Rector of Stratton, near Cirencester, aged 86.

May 7, at Swell Rectory, near Taunton, MARY, wife of the late Venerable JOHN CORVAN, D.D., Archdeacon of Ferns, and Rector of Enniscorthy, aged 71 years.

May 9, at his residence, Clarmont House, Hull, WILLIAM CROFT, Brazilian Vice-Consul, aged 73 years.

May 9, at Wynnstay, Ruabon, Colonel Sir WATKIN WILLIAMS WYNN, Bart., M.P., and A.D.C. to Her Majesty, aged 64.

May 9, at Bournemouth, CATHERINE WATKINSON, of Colne Place, Earl's Colne, Essex, widow of the Rev. Robert Watkinson, formerly Vicar of Earl's Colne, aged 92.

May 10, the Rev. CHARLES MILLER, M.A., aged 88 years, 58 years Vicar of Harlow, Essex.

LATEST NEWS.

Paris, May 15.

The St. Petersburg correspondent of the *Débats* telegraphs that Russia has entirely rejected the agreement arrived at in London. Russia demands the right to have an acknowledged representative at Cabul. French diplomatists express the opinion that this demand is more serious than any question arising out of the frontier.

St. Petersburg (*vid* Gumbinnen), May 14.

A private report from General Komaroff received by M. de Giers states that the Sariks protest strongly against the delimitation of the frontier proposed by M. Lessar as altogether unacceptable. The Sariks declare that by this arrangement all the best pasture-lands would be made over to the Afghans. A council of war has been held to consider these protests; and upon investigation it was evident that the representations of the Sariks were well founded, and further negotiations on the subject between the Powers interested are therefore imperatively necessary. It is stated that the official proposal for arbitration has been transmitted to the King of Denmark.

Souakim, May 15.

Orders have been issued for the withdrawal of the Guards, the Royal Horse Artillery, and the British cavalry. They will embark for England immediately. The Grenadiers and Scots Guards will leave in the troop-ship *Jumna* to-morrow. General Greaves will remain here to superintend the final arrangements. The permanent garrison will consist of one battalion of British infantry, a company of sappers, the native infantry, and the native camel corps, under the command of General Hudson. General Graham and Staff will sail in the transport *Deccan*. Generals M'Neil, Fremantle, and Ewart will follow shortly afterwards. The Australian contingent will leave in the transport *Arab*. The following officers will accompany General Graham:—Majors Cullen and Grover; Lieutenants Stopford, Anderson, and Lindsay.

The objections of the Russian Government to the draft agreement for the delimitation of the Afghan frontier do not amount, the *St. James's Gazette* believes, to a rejection of it. Certain it is, however, that the arrangement which our Government considered a settled thing a few days ago has proved unacceptable to the Russian Chancellor. To use a favourite slang phrase, he does not find it "good enough," and requires that it shall be modified. This was only to be expected. But what excites most alarm in official circles is the fear that what the Russian Government is seeking is delay; that during the delay excuses will be found on the spot for a further development of the Russian advance; and that our relations with the Ameer may be weakened yet more.

In the House of Commons last night, in reply to Sir S. Northcote, Mr. Gladstone said: The negotiations with Russia have not been brought to a conclusion. I understand that my noble friend is expecting to hear from the Russian Ambassador of an answer from St. Petersburg to a communication which has been made respecting our position on the frontier, and that some days may perhaps elapse before an actual answer on that part of the case would be received. Papers have been laid upon the table, and will be circulated to-morrow; but, of course, the negotiations have not been concluded; they do not deal with the whole case; they will, I believe, break off at or about a time not later than the incident at Penjdeh—(oh)—and the remainder will be presented at as early a date as possible.

Yesterday was observed throughout the diocese of Chichester as one of prayer and humiliation, in consequence of the present critical condition of public affairs.

A handsomely bound copy of the "Standard Edition" of the Revised Bible (pica, royal 8vo., in five volumes) was yesterday presented to the Queen. The volumes are enclosed in a morocco box, and bear the following inscription:—

Presented to
Her Most Gracious Majesty
The Queen
By the Convocation of
The Province of Canterbury
May xv.
A.D. MDCCCLXXXV.

IN MEMORIAM.—J. H. EWING.

On Wednesday morning last there passed away in Mrs. Ewing a bright and a pure spirit. A daughter of the well-known writer of *Parables from Nature*, the wife of a soldier, she has written perhaps more to charm children, and children of a larger growth, than anyone of her time. As the mother was one of the first, if not the very first, to write what children could understand and men and women could admire, so was the daughter foremost among those who essayed to take up Mrs. Gatty's work when it fell from her hands. And how well Mrs. Ewing succeeded in her task is known to all readers of that most touching book, *Jackanapes*. Well might a reviewer become for once enthusiastic, and see in that "the book of the year," than which "there had been nothing written that was more humorous since Thackeray." By a coincidence which has a sadness all its own, Mrs. Ewing's other great work—to our mind, indeed, the best of all—which readers of *Aunt Judy's Magazine* knew under its quaint name of *Laetus Sorte Mea*, was published by the S. P. C. K. as a beautiful little book under a new name which is now only too sadly appropriate, *The Story of a Short Life*, but two days before Mrs. Ewing's own short life closed. And who that has read can ever forget such stories as *A Great Emergency* and *Daddy Darwin's Dovecote*? They need not to be enriched by the pencils of Mrs. Allingham and Mr. Gordon Browne, nor by the initials which all men know so well, "R.C." It is by writings such as these, simple, pure, and noble, that Mrs. Ewing has won herself a high place in the literature of her day. The greatest of our critics has said that *Jackanapes* had made more children cry than any other book that ever was written. There will be more tears over the grave of the author of *Jackanapes* than over many a burial in Poets' Corner.

E. J. S.

SOCIETY.

A marriage has been arranged between the Rev. George W. Skene, rector of Barthomley, and brother-in-law of the Archbishop of York, and Mrs. Lawton, widow of the late Mr. W. J. P. Lawton, of Lawton Hall, Cheshire, and daughter of the late Hon. E. M. Erskine, C.B.

A marriage will shortly take place between Mr. Archie R. Loyd, third son of the late Mr. Thomas R. Loyd, of the Indian Civil Service, and Miss Henrietta L. Clutterbuck, eldest daughter of the late Mr. Edmund L. Clutterbuck, of Hardenhuish-park, Wilts.

Also between Mrs. Baskervyle Glegg, widow of John Baskervyle Glegg, of Withington and Gayton, Cheshire, and second daughter of the late George Beauchamp Cole, of Heatham House, co. Middlesex, and George Dixon, of Astle Hall, Chelford, Cheshire.

Also between Mr. Percy Bernard Hall, third son of Mr. Bernard Hall, of Dudlow House, near Liverpool, and Mariposa, Cannes, and Miss Kent, eldest daughter of Mr. Edmund Kent, of East Winch Hall, Norfolk.

On Wednesday, May 6, at St. George's, Hanover-square, was celebrated the marriage of Mr. Walter Selby Butler, fourth son of the late Sir Richard Pierce Butler, Bart., of Ballin Temple and Garryhundon, co. Carlow, with Alice Lucy, second daughter of Mr. Edmund Fowler, Abberley, Edgbaston. The bride wore a dress of ivory duchesse satin, jupon of pearl embroidery, pleating of Brussels net, and marabout tips around the train; pointed bodice edged with pearls; wreath of orange blossoms and myrtle, tulle veil edged with pearls; large bouquet of orange blossoms and other flowers. The bridesmaids wore dresses of primrose surah silk, with deep lace flounces; wreaths of primroses and tulle veils; bouquets of primroses and maidenhair fern. Each wore a gold bangle with pearl horseshoe and arrow brooch, with monogram of bride and bridegroom, the gift of the latter.

The marriage of Dr. Richard Caton, of Liverpool, with Miss Ivory, only daughter of the late William Ivory, W.S., of St. Roque, Edinburgh, was solemnised at Christ Church, Edinburgh, on Tuesday, May 5, at 2 p.m. The bridegroom was attended by Mr. Ryley as best man. The bride, who was given away by her cousin, Mr. William Ivory, and was attended by seven bridesmaids, four of them being children, was attired in ivory satin, made with a long full train, the petticoat being entirely draped with old Venetian point lace, the bodice being trimmed with sprays of orange blossom. She also wore a small wreath of the same flowers and a large tulle veil, and carried a beautiful bouquet of arum lilies and exotics. The three grown-up bridesmaids wore dresses of white sprigged muslin, trimmed with lace, and deep purple velvet bows and streamers; bonnets composed entirely of shaded violets, with high aigrettes, and each carried a bouquet of white flowers and violets. The four children were in pure white, with sashes and mob cap-hats, and carried baskets of white flowers. They each wore a gold bangle, the gift of the bridegroom. The wedding party consisted of only a small circle of relatives and intimate friends. The Rev. F. E. Belcombe, incumbent, officiated. The service was full choral. After the ceremony the wedding party adjourned to St. Roque, and at four o'clock Dr. and Mrs. Caton left for Carlisle *en route* for the Continent. The bride's travelling costume was of dark brown embossed vicuna, with vest of garnet velvet, and bonnet to match.

On Tuesday, the 5th of May, the grand old church of St. Mary's, at Woodbridge, was crowded by a large congregation who had assembled to witness the marriage of Miss Edith Mary Rouse, the eldest daughter of the rector of Woodbridge, to Mr. G. C. Edwardes-Ker, of the same town. The church was tastefully decorated with flowers. The bride, who was conducted by her grandfather, Major Rouse, who gave her away, was met at the church door by the clergy and choir. The bridal party included a large number of relations and friends of the bride and bridegroom. The service was choral. The bride wore a petticoat of white silk embroidery of orange blossoms on fine muslin, the bride's own work, and finished with a deep lace flounce. The bodice and train were of white satin, and the tulle veil was worked in silk embroidery to match the petticoat. The hair was adorned with a spray of real orange blossoms, and a very handsome gold bracelet and a magnificent bouquet of choice exotics, the gift of the bridegroom, completed the toilet. The bridesmaids were dressed in pale blue and pale pink, with dark brown hats and gloves, and carried baskets of flowers. After breakfast at the rectory the bridal pair left for Brighton, the bride's travelling dress being of grey cashmere, hat with pale pink and grey feathers, and velvet jacket.

The marriage between Lord Keane and Mrs. Morrell took place on Wednesday, the 6th inst., by special licence at St. Augustine's Church, Queen's-gate, in the presence of a few relations. The service, which was choral, was performed by the vicar, Rev. R. R. Chope.

The Archbishop of Canterbury and Mrs. Benson had a dinner party at Lambeth Palace on Wednesday evening, when among the guests were the Prime Minister and Mrs. Gladstone and Miss Gladstone, Prince and Princess Naresr Varariddhi, Prince Prisdang, the Earl and Countess of Aberdeen, Earl Sydney, Viscount Cranbrook and Hon. Miss Gathorne Hardy, the Bishop of London and Mrs. Temple and Miss Lascelles, the Dean of Westminster and Mrs. Bradley, the Right Hon. George and Mrs. Cubitt and Miss Cubitt, Hon. Miss Grosvenor, Mr. and Mrs. F. Verney, Mr. Browning, the Rev. F. Fowler, and Miss Benson.

The Marquis and Marchioness of Salisbury entertained at dinner, at their residence in Arlington-street, on Wednesday evening, his Excellency the French Ambassador and Mdme. Waddington, the Duke and Duchess of Argyll and Lady Constance Campbell, the Duke and Duchess of Manchester, Viscount and Viscountess Barrington, Viscount Baring, Lord and Lady North, the Right Hon. Colonel and Lady Constance Stanley, Sir Archibald and the Hon. Lady Campbell (of Blytheswood), General and Mrs. Alderson, Colonel Edgcumbe, Colonel Lindsay, Mr. Balfour, and Miss Alderson. Later, Lady Salisbury gave her third reception, which was numerously attended.

THE QUEEN'S DRAWING ROOM.

A Drawing Room was held at Buckingham Palace on Wednesday. The Queen was present for more than an hour, so that many of the four hundred who were presented had the honour of kissing Her Majesty's hand. Her train was black satin fîrsé and tulle, with a jetted front to the petticoat; the Blue Ribbon of the Garter crossed the bodice of her dress, and she had a magnificent diamond and pearl tiara, with pearl necklace and ornaments, and a profusion of other Orders. Next to her stood the Princess of Wales, in a rich red satin, train and bodice brocaded with white flowers and green leaves; the petticoat was richly trimmed with point d'Alençon, and looped with strawberries and leaves. She had a tiara and magnificent parure of diamonds. The Princess Christian wore a train of silver brocade on a red satin ground over a red tulle petticoat. The Princess Beatrice, a train of white corded silk; the petticoat, mousseline de soie, brocaded with flowers of the natural colours. The Prince of Wales's eldest daughter was beside her, in a pure white tulle dress, made with narrow plissé and silk train with apple blossoms, and no ornaments but a few pearls. There was a large gathering of the Royal princes—the Prince of Wales, Duke of Edinburgh, the Duke of Cambridge, Prince Christian, Prince Edward of Saxe-Weimar, and the Duke of Mecklenberg-Strelitz. The Duchess of Edinburgh was driving in the Park with her children, and was not present, and the younger daughters of the Prince of Wales were unseen spectators of the Drawing Room within the Palace. The general circle within the Throne Room was particularly brilliant, and the display of diamonds magnificent. There was a large gathering of the Diplomatic Corps; several members of the Siamese Embassy in their rich Oriental dresses; Prince Malcolm Khan in the caftan, which he retains all the time, and the gold and blue diplomatic uniform. There were not many gentlemen accompanying ladies; a judge, in red robes and white wig, a few soldiers, and a limited number who wore court suits. One lady fainted during the Drawing Room, and another was not allowed to pass, presumably on account of her dress not according with the rules laid down. The chief novelty in the ladies' toilets were the gold and silver brocades. One in dark brown and gold was made up over a canary petticoat; a magnificent white and gold over white satin with priceless lace; but there was every variety of colour with both gold and silver. Eau de Nil is the latest revival in colours, worn with dark green velvet or light pink silk and satin. One of these had the bodice and front of skirt worked with beetle's wings. Many ladies present wore high bodices by special permission. A beautiful light brocade was thus made: the design, pink and mauve orchids, and had one corner of the train turned up; on this was sewn a large bunch of natural orchids; the petticoat was light maize. Another was a rich brown satin, with a red velvet brocade on cream inserted in the front of the skirt, and high bodice. Many velvet trains were worn with cream skirts and bodices, just one brace of the velvet attached to the shoulder. A large bunch of plumes was very generally placed on the left side, especially where the trains were worn from the shoulder. The skirts are more bouffante than of yore. Many of the dresses worn at the recent Dublin Drawing Room appeared again at Buckingham Palace. The feathers were often mounted just behind diamond tiaras, with an aigrette in the centre, and rather higher than heretofore. The Marchioness of Ormonde wore a magnificent diamond tiara; her dress was cream, both bodice and skirt, the train silver grey velvet, bordered with a pink plaiting between the scallops. The Countess of Sefton had a train of black broché velvet grenadine, lined with satin and trimmed with lace and shaded red plumes, the petticoat satin, heavily trimmed with jet and shaded red plumes; the bodice was covered with diamonds, and had many pendants of jet. The ordinary mode of trimming the bodices of Court dresses is either with a beaded stomacher or flat lace, a draped piece of lace superseding the tucker. The Countess of Annesley had a Louis XV. broché blue petticoat with roses and forget-me-nots, the train of Chartreuse green brocaded with clusters of roses, tied with ribbons—a favourite combination. Lady William Lennox's petticoat was of blue, worn with a rich brown train. Lady Mills had one of the few painted dresses at the Drawing Room, silver-grey with bunches of orchids and plenty of Valenciennes lace. Lady Sykes wore a train and bodice of sapphire-blue moire, with sapphire faille and large looped bows of ribbons. Lady Exmouth's was a velvet train worked in pearls with Prince of Wales's plumes.

Modistes keep their brightest inspirations for the May Drawing Rooms, and some triumphs of colouring were to be seen on Wednesday, the soft brilliancy of the tints being increased by the beauty of the fabrics in which they were seen, and enhanced by the exquisite lace with which many of the trains were trimmed. Among the most successful studies of colour, says the *Daily News*, was a Court train of pale water-blue brocade strewn with bunches of Gloire de Dijon roses. The petticoat was of tulle in the same tint of pale water-blue. The whole of the left side was a mass of drooping fringes of pale blue beads lighted up with tassels of gold. The draperies of tulle were tied with knots of yellow ribbon and groups of Gloire de Dijon roses. The train also was trimmed with liberal bunches of these lovely roses, made with so much skill as closely to resemble nature, and was, besides, softened at the edges with a rippling flow of pale blue tulle. The bodice was edged with large blue pearls, and the sleeves consisted of strings of these falling over the arm.

An uncommon and refined union of tints was found in a petticoat of primrose satin, seen in glimpses through a rich passementerie of lead-coloured beads, the centre being enriched with drooping loops of pearls in the same shade of grey. The remainder of the skirt was lead-coloured satin, while the Court train was of velvet to match. A thick ruche of mingled grey and primrose silk finished the edges of the skirt, and over this fell the fringe of pearl beads in which the heavy passementerie terminated. Folds of white softened the effect of contrast at the meeting points of the grey skirt with the primrose satin tablier.

A Court train of mahogany-coloured velvet served to throw into prominent relief the cunningly mingled tints of amethyst, ruby, gold, pink and pearl of some elaborate Byzantine embroidery wrought upon white satin. This formed the tablier, with graduated loops of pearls, strung with gold, down the centre. The deep rich tone of the mahogany velvet, beautiful in itself, seemed to serve the lighter, brighter tints as a sort of bass. A train in two shades of greyish blue was worn over a petticoat of satin in the same tint, veiled with tulle from which depended innumerable small tassels of pale grey-blue beads. The folds of tulle were held by large bunches of kingcups tied in position by knots of grey-blue ribbon. A very successful dress was composed of tan-coloured tulle, over which fell folds of lace dyed to the same shade. The bodice was made of tan-coloured kid, edged with two rows of beads in a tint of chocolate brown. The train was in a similar tone of brown velvet, lined with pale blue satin. The trimmings of this lovely dress were pale blue and tan-coloured ostrich feathers. A very effective Court train was of gold-embroidered brocatelle lined with striped satin and gauze, the stripes being wide, the satin in a brilliant shade of coral red, and the gauze in twine-colour. The dress over which this train fell was made of white tulle, and across the front was draped a graceful Oriental-looking scarf of the striped material, the ends falling low on the skirt, and terminating in heavy fringes of mingled coral and gold. Of unusual beauty was a dress of tulle in the softest possible shade of blush pink, the front of the skirt being lightly veiled by the meshes of some lovely old lace, while the folds of tulle were held at either side by great bunches of silver wheat and whats-o'clocks. The train was of pink and silver brocade, and the whole effect was as of summer sunset with a silver moon just beginning to shed its beams when the sun still lingers in the pink-tinged west. The much deeper colour known as shrimp pink showed to advantage in combination with a train of beaver-coloured velvet, the latter being trimmed with fine old lace, and lined with a marvellous velvet brocade, in which the tints were china blue, a pinkish mauve, faint lemon colour, and gold. The design being small, these tints were arranged with so much skill that a subtle harmony was produced from an union that might otherwise have been a discord. The bright golden brown which is best described as dead-leaf-brown, and which is a skilful mingling of tan colour with golden brown, showed at its best in a rich brocade on a ground of palest blue. The design was large roses, and being of a flowing character, the pale blue was well displayed in the intervals between the flowers. This magnificent train was worn over a skirt of pale blue tulle tied up with satin ribbons.

Many black dresses were worn at Wednesday's Drawing Room, and in these, without an exception, jet played a very prominent part. In one, the whole front of the skirt was covered with jet-embroidered black net, the design being a realistic imitation of spiders' webs. The folds were held at intervals by jet butterflies with transparent wings, and knots of yellow ribdons. The train was black brocade, in a design of large moons in velvet, the edges being lighter than the mass of velvet in the centre, so as to give the large circles a rounded look. Bows of yellow ribbon and jet butterflies composed the trimming, one corner of the train being turned back with a cluster of ribbons. Another black dress was also made with a heavily jetted front, velvet paniers edged with jet fringes falling over the black tulle of the petticoat, which was caught up with clusters of pink roses, black ribbons, lace, and jet butterflies. The train was of black velvet lined with pink, and trimmed with roses and butterflies veiled in clouds of tulle. A third black train was of brocaded gauze, lined with white moire, which showed through the open meshes of the gauze. This was worn over a skirt of white brocade, trimmed with crystal fringes and bunches of dark-tinted grapes. Yet another black train, made of velvet, was lined with lilac satin, and edged with quantities of black Chantilly. The petticoat was of black tulle, relieved with jet and natural-looking bunches of lilac.

Many of the *débutantes'* dresses were trimmed with white lilac. In one of these the white satin train was wreathed all round with clusters of the beautiful flower. The skirt was garlanded with one long branch in which some of the blossoms had developed all the splendour of their inimitable purity of white, while others were represented as being still green, with just the promise of a future whiteness showing through. A suitable dress this for a fair English girl to wear on her introduction to social life. On another white satin train were lavished billowy trimmings of tulle, in which nestled bunches of hawthorn, the flower of May. A presentation dress, the front of which was covered with pleatings of finest tulle, was crossed by diagonal lines of broad moiré ribbon, the end of each being held down by a cluster of large white pansies. The train was of white gros-grain silk, the edges ruched with tulle, and trimmed with pansies. An effective use was made on another white dress of broad velvet ribbon in the peerless shade known as Imperial yellow. The train was of cream-coloured satin, trimmed with white lace and bows of the velvet ribbon. The dress was of white tulle, trimmed to match, and the bodice was crossed by a broad ribbon like those upon the skirt, and tied in the daintiest of bows upon the shoulder. Several dresses were trimmed with the gauze galloons that are a novelty of this season. They are woven of gold and silver threads, and are utilised both as insertions and edgings. The great favour in which string-colour or beige is held will now be more than ever emphasised on account of the lavish use made of it in several of the Drawing-room dresses. Combined with emerald green or some of the new shades of Chartreuse or absinthe, it is perhaps at its best. It also goes well with shrimp pink, the brightness of which it subdues while increasing the effectiveness. Combined with the rich shades of nasturtium, known to milliners by the French title of the flower, "capucine," it cannot fail to be appreciated. Other tints which are sure to be much worn, having been endorsed by an introduction to Court at the May Drawing-rooms, are bronze, tan colour, the tint known as almond, and some unusually bright shades of lilac.

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